The Middlebury Campus

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Former director of CSO files suit against college

By Mary O'Brien
Staff Writer

Valerie Szymkowicz, former director of the Career Services Office, filed a claim against Middlebury College for unlawful termination of employment in October of 1997, which will come under legal review again in early April.

Although Szymkowicz filed her suit against the college nearly two years ago, it is not unusual for a civil case to take such a long period of time to come up for review. At the present time, the firms representing Szymkowicz, Keiner & Dumont of Middlebury, and Middlebury College, Dinse, Knapp & McAndrew of Burlington, are still conferring on the counts brought against the school and further legal proceedings.

Hired in 1984 to work for the CSO, Szymkowicz was promoted to the position of director in 1991. Though Szymkowicz alleges that she was served with a letter calling for her replacement as the head of the CSO in 1996, her letter of resignation from the position was not accepted until February of 1999.

The reason Szymkowicz was retained as director of CSO is unclear, although Don Wyatt, former vice president of the College said "there was a creation of a new position...of executive director that [Szymkowicz] reported to. All I can say is that responsibility and lines of report changed." To fill the position of executive director, the college hired Carla Mortensen, who, however, has also recently resigned in order to accept a position at Simmons College in Boston. Interim director Jim Shattuck replaced Mortensen late last month.

Wyatt, who is still a member of the history faculty, was a member of the Ad Hoc Internal Review Committee that assessed Szymkowicz's job performance, as well as Szymkowicz's immediate supervisor when Mortensen was hired.

In her complaint, Szymkowicz alleges that she was informed of the existence of an internal review committee in October of 1995, and said that she performed a review of her own department which ended in January of 1996. Her statement details her claim that she received a letter from then Vice President Wyatt via interoffice mail "calling for her replacement as director [of the CSO]" and apologizing for the unprofessional manner in which she was served with the note.

Szymkowicz also claims that upon being hired she was presented with a copy of the employee handbook, which outlined her rights and responsibilities as an employee of the college. These rights, she said in her complaint, included what was

(see Former, page 4)

Going for the gold

Pete Huoppi

In capturing their fourth consecutive ECAC championship, *the women's hockey team triumphed over the Pioneers of Sacred Heart by a score of 5-2. The win marks their 72nd straight ECAC victory.*

Bernie Sanders advocates student action against sweatshops

By Sandy Caron
Staff Writer

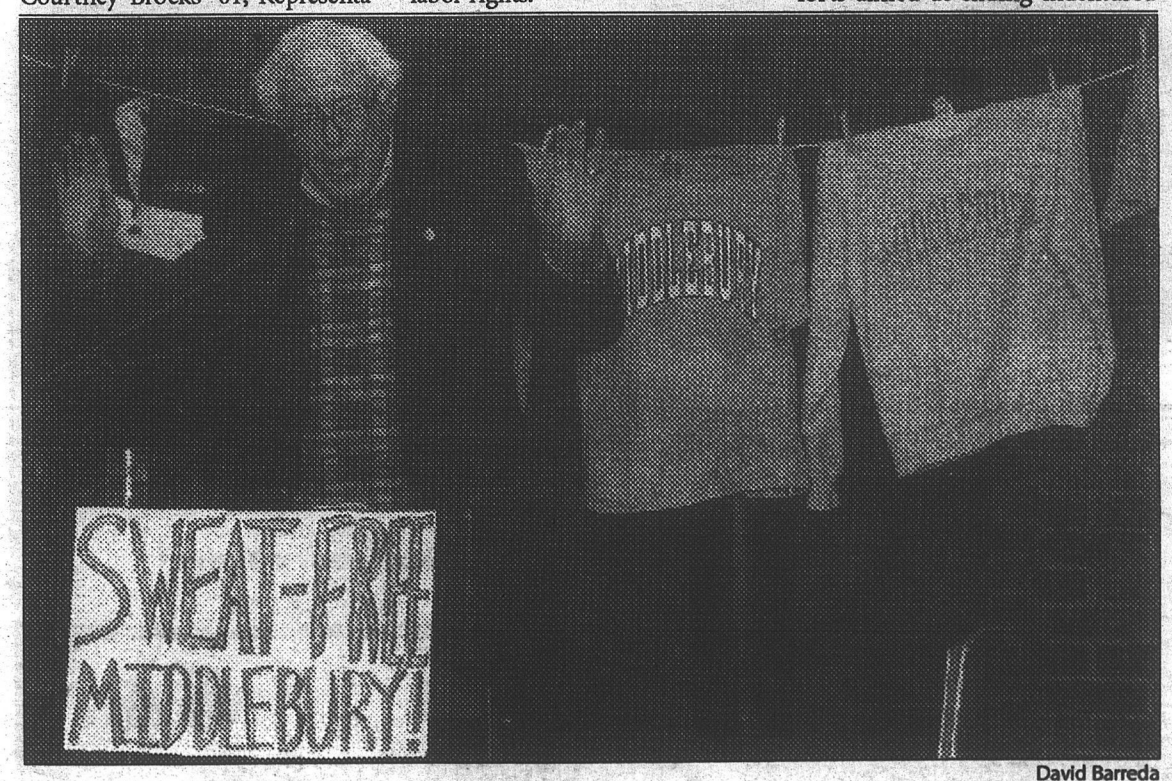
Students, faculty and town residents poured into Proctor Woodstove Lounge Monday afternoon to participate in the Middlebury Progressives' rally for a "Sweat Free Middlebury." This rally kicked off the Progressives' Week of Action, intended to raise awareness of the sweatshop issue and to increase student and faculty support for the for the group's "Sweat-Free Middlebury" campaign.

After a musical performance by Courtney Brocks '01, Representative Bernard Sanders (I-VT) officially initiated the well-attended rally and the Progressives' awareness campaign with remarks about the inhumanity of sweatshop labor practices and the importance of student activism at Middlebury and other colleges and universities around the nation in order to end such conditions. Since he joined the House of Representatives in 1991 as Vermont's only representative and the only Independent, Congressman Sanders has been a principle advocate of U.S. and international labor rights.

Sanders commended those in the room for taking an active stance against the horrors of sweatshop labor. "For the first time in years we are seeing the growth of a political consciousness not only on this campus but on campuses all over this country, where young people like yourselves are looking out into the world and are saying more than 'What's in it for me?' but 'How can I make this a better world?'"

Sanders spoke of recent efforts in Congress to improve sweatshop practices. He emphasized those efforts aimed at ending indentured child labor, a condition under which many young children in Southeast Asia are chained to looms to manufacture products for U.S. consumption. Two years ago Senator Harkin of Iowa passed a bill to ban the importation of products made by children under these conditions. The policy has met with great success, which indicates that it is indeed possible to continue to

(see Sanders, page 4)



David Barreda

Bernie Sanders spurred students to take action against the sweatshop manufacture of Middlebury clothing.

Commons finalize new spring room draw plans

By Lindsay Frost
Staff Writer

Each of the five commons is currently in the process of developing their own system for continuing commons room draw this spring. Members of the Commons Councils have been working with Residential Life to draw up proposals and each commons' final proposal will be reviewed today by Residential Life.

Director of Residential Life Kathy Ebner and Assistant Director of Residential Life Paige Budelsky created guidelines for the continuing commons room draw stating that each commons was able to offer 50 percent of the rooms within their commons in the continuing commons draw. The commons would be required to create a room draw system to distribute these rooms, which would have to adhere to certain guidelines set forth by Residential Life.

There is concern within each commons to make continuing commons room draw fair to all students. Associate Professor of American Literature and Civilization Tim Spears, a leader in the commons initiative, spoke of the "tension between the commons wanting to maintain momentum in their development" and wanting to be fair to the rest of students on campus.

Most of the commons' proposals for the actual draw process and hierarchy center around a combination of seniority and involvement in the commons. Each commons' draw will begin with seniors. Seniors who have been active in the commons will have priority over seniors who are commons residents but who have not been actively involved in commons activities. Juniors draw next with the same distinction concerning involvement,

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COLLEGE shorts

By Kristine Palmero
News Assistant

Protesters urge Harvard to increase wages

Several hundred Harvard University students, professors and service workers held a rally last night, urging the institution to pay its service employees at least $10 per hour. According to the protesters, more than 1000 employees, including janitors and security guards, earn less than the proposed living-wage of Cambridge, $10. Archie Epps, the dean of students, has agreed to meet with Living Wage representatives to discuss its concerns. Kim Roberts, Harvard's director of labor and employee relations, defended Harvard's level of compensation, noting that their wages were established under collective bargaining agreements between the university and the workers' unions.

Professor sues university for banning thongs

G. Roger Davis, a music professor, sued Miami University last week, claiming that his First and 14th Amendment rights were violated when the university revoked his paid membership to the campus aquatic center for wearing a thong bathing suit. Joining him in the suit was the Naturist Action Committee, which fights regulations restricting nudist or clothing-optional lifestyles. Holly Wissing, a university spokeswoman, said that the policy was not specifically meant to restrict the professor. The professor's membership was terminated in December after he ignored warnings by staff members that his bathing suit violated the center's dress code which bars "street clothes, thongs and see-through swimwear."

St. Cloud students excavate campus site

Students and professors at the Minnesota university are currently excavating a gravesite, which workers discovered when building a library. To date, 24 graves have been found at the southeast corner of the university's $32.5 million library. Richard Rothaus, a history professor, said that testing has indicated that the remains are those of Protestant settlers. The remains will be re-buried at a local cemetery, and the new library, which will be completed by the fall of 2000, will display artifacts as memorials to the gravesite.

Source: *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

Obituary

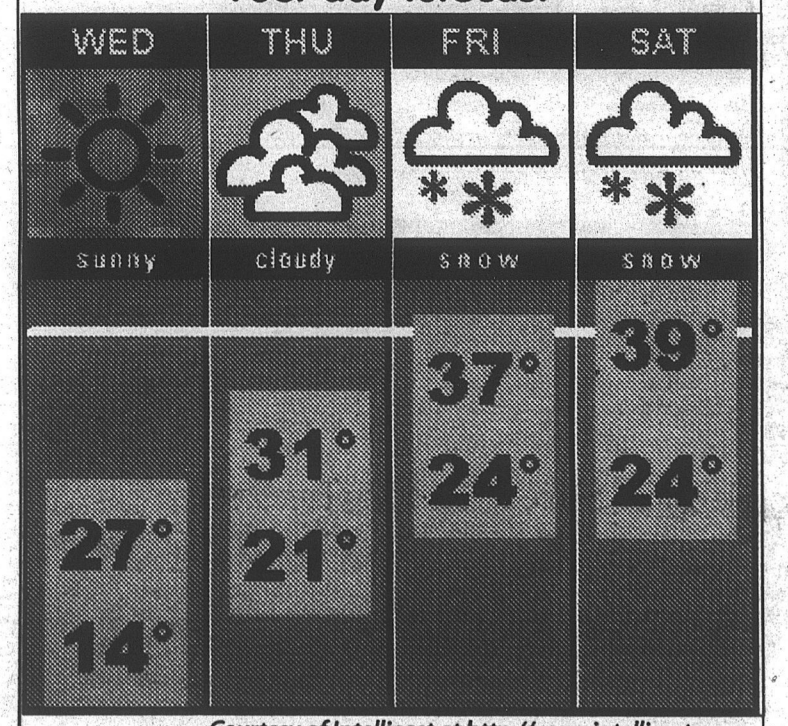
Erie T. Volkert, age 86, passed away on Sunday, March 7, 1999 at Porter Medical Center in Middlebury. Volkert, who was a professor at Middlebury College, is survived by his wife Mary, his four children, five grandchildren and his sister.

A celebration of Erie's life will be held in the spring at the Middlebury Congregational Church. The Reverend David Andrews will officiate.

Sanderson Funeral Service is in care of the arrangements.

Campus Weather

Four day forecast



Courtesy of Intellicast at http://www.intellicast.com

Colleges revert to supervised living

By Mary O'Brien
Staff Writer

It's 10 p.m....where are your professors? Look hard enough and you might find them in your dorm.

In a front-page article in last Thursday's edition of *The New York Times*, writer Ethan Bronner laid out the plans of many American colleges to re-involve faculty members in the campus lives of students. The plans, not unlike Middlebury's proposed enhanced commons system, would allow for students and staff to have more organized and casual contact outside of academic settings.

NEWS analysis

The article, titled "In a Revolution of Rules, Campuses Go Full Circle," says that in the 1960s, many of the authority figures associated with college life were left behind as students moved toward self-governed residences and organizations. Now, Bronner says, many schools are seeing a return to the presence of "dorm mothers" and faculty members in a variety of different residential and social roles.

Though Middlebury was not cited in the article, it has made an effort to accomplish the same goal through the 1991 implementation of the commons system. In the future, it is possible there will be even more alumni and faculty involvement on campus.

According to Nate Johnson, assistant director of Commons Planning, the college eventually hopes to implement the enhanced commons system as a way of bringing together the lives of professors, commons associates and students.

As it stands now, a Commons Resident Adviser (CRA), who generally lives in the first-year dormitory in each commons, advises each of the five Commons on campus (Atwater, Brainerd, Cook, Ross, and Wonnacott). In addition, all dorms have at least one Resident Adviser (RA) with experience in Residential Life. Juniors also advise freshman dorms on campus and live with first-year students and help them to adjust to campus life.

Johnson said that the extended system would put faculty and associate offices in the commons, as well as put faculty housing "in view" of many campus dorms and residences. This, he said, would place staff members "closer to students in the least intrusive way possible...and increase casual interaction —students just dropping by the offices of associates and professors to talk."

Bronner's article in the *Times* says that the motivations behind the attempt to form relationships between students and faculty outside of a classroom setting are changes in society such as "consumerism, litigiousness, a shift in the intergenerational relations and increased fears about campus drinking." Another reason for the interest in having faculty and staff in residence on campus is the diverse backgrounds of students on campuses today: While some students have had substantial guidance in their homes, many have had little to none. In both cases, several schools agree that students need more supervision. Another piece of the equation that Bronner presents is the fact that many parents have called for more campus supervision as well.

As a result of the rekindled "in loco parentis," the idea that staff members should assume parental roles for students, colleges have established many new restrictions on campus life. Bronner lists Pennsylvania State University's new alcohol-free, faculty supervised student center; the abolition of single-sex fraternities and sororities at Dartmouth College, popular locations for "Animal House"-type gatherings; and Lehigh University's ban on un-chaperoned campus parties as examples of such regulations.

Many people are surprised that the decision to involve more authority figures has been a very popular one with many students across the country. While the programs have been met with some skepticism, for the most part they have been successful.

Bronner's article quotes University of Wisconsin senior Carrie Mayer, who believes many of the new programs give students needed structure and comfort. Amanda Biles, a senior at the University of Virginia said in the article that the plans are particularly important for first-year students who need a lot of direction during their first year in college.

What has the reaction of Middlebury students been to the commons system? Based on the feedback he has received, Johnson says that thus far, both students and faculty members have had a positive experience with the commons system.

However, he does not see Middlebury's commons system as a part of this trend toward increased regulation of student life.

"What the system is not, is 'in loco parentis,'" Johnson said. "It is a relationship that helps everyone at this college to see how well-rounded we all are.

"I think it has been a very beneficial system for students to learn from people with more experience," Johnson continued, "and for faculty and staff to learn more about the students beyond how they appear in a discussion section or on a paper."

SGA Briefs

* A Rising Sophomore Dinner for first-year students will be held on Wednesday, March 10, at 5:30 in Mitchell Green Lounge. Seniors discuss leadership opportunities on campus.

* SafeRides is looking to hire a driver, driver's assistant and dispatcher. Hours are Sunday-Thursday, 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Those who are interested should call Jason Oleet at extension 4580 or Blake Rutherford at extension 4733.

* General Assembly passed Jonathan Shapira's '02 bill for Stewart Air and Water Quality Review.

* General Assembly also passed Kerri Noto '99 and Steve Washburn's '02 bill to use Middlebury paraphernelia as Grille decor.

* General Assembly passed Ben Johns '01.5, Nate Kellogg '01, Ted Noon '01.5, and Jason Oleet's '00.5 bill to form a Feb Self-Study Committee. This committee will be composed of two Feb students and one September student from each class, Feb alumni, parents and faculty.

* General Assembly passed David Cohen's '01 bill to allot $300 ($200 from student activities and $100 personal expenses) to each presidential/vice-presidential ticket running this spring.

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Progressives sponsor Week of Action to raise campus awareness

By Kristine Palmero
News Assistant

The fledgling political group, the Middlebury Progressives, launched a series of events this week to raise campus awareness and to garner support for the Progressives' United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS).

The Middlebury College Progressives opened the week on Monday in Proctor loungewith a rally, which featured Congressman Bernard Sanders (page 1), to bring attention to the issue of college apparel made in sweatshops.

Today, there will be an informal panel discussion with members of the college faculty. The panel, which includes Malcolm Cutchin of the geography department and Ellen Oxfield, chair of the sociology department, will discuss the potential impact of students against sweatshops, as well as the economic effects of the campaign in other countries.

This week also includes a lecture by Nicaraguan human rights activist Sandra Ramos, who will talk about her experiences as a former sweatshop worker. Ramos, the director of the Maria Elena Cuadra Movement of Employed and Unemployed Women, organizes many of the programs, which represent sweatshop laborers. She is currently working with Global Exchange, while touring many northeastern colleges and universities.

"It's really exciting to have Congressman Sanders support and rally with us," said Alex Zwerdling '00. "We also have the rare opportunity to talk to someone who has worked in a sweatshop."

The Progressives will also sponsor a Proctor sweat-free fashion show on Friday, in which students will model apparel and commentators will talk about the conditions under which the garments were made.

With USAS, the Progressives want to jumpstart the campaign among other New England colleges.

"We want to feel as if we're ahead of the game right now," said Zwerdling. "Instead of [striving for] unity at a 2,000-student campus, we could have tens of thousands of students [united against sweatshops.] It would be great to have Middlebury be the leader instead of a middle-of-the-road, passive observer."

The group has contacts at Amherst, Wesleyan, Bucknell, Oberlin and Smith, as well as at larger universities, but among these institutions, Middlebury is the most active in the sweatshop campaign.

"The issue that has been of the most confusion is that [the movement] is perceived as a boycott of these companies and that the only change that we are hoping would come about is the close-down of the factories," said Peter Nestor '01. "The idea is to reform the conditions where the factories already are, not to close them down, because we realize that for some people, this is the only job they can get. But we think that the job should be a humane job and that the workers be paid a minimum wage."

We want to feel as if we're ahead of the game right now... It would be great to have Middlebury be the leader instead of a middle-of-the-road, passive observer.
—Alex Zwerdling

Currently, the College Licensing Company (CLC) owns the logo rights of more than 100 universities. While the CLC had an agreement with its apparel companies to meet certain ethical standards, the contract lacked a clause that required companies to disclose the factory locations and grant a living wage: the salary that allows laborers to provide basic necessities for themselves and their families.

Although Middlebury is independent of CLC, the college purchases apparel from Champion, Gear and Jansport, major companies that use sweatshop labor. The Progressives sent a letter to President McCardell to urge the adoption of the Code of Conduct, which they will discuss with McCardell on Friday. The code will prevent the college from purchasing apparel from companies that use sweatshop labor unless they comply with the standards of operation and production enumerated in the code.

Under the proposed code, a company that fails to meet these will be at least required to repair damages by paying all applicable back wages or reinstating workers illegally dismissed. It also requires that companies safeguard against discrimination on the basis of sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation or marital status and protect against the exploitation of labor.

The code also suggests that the college establish a budget to provide for the establishment of the code's mandates and to ensure the companies' compliance with these mandates. In order to comply with the code, companies must disclose information about their factory locations, workers' ages, wages, hours and working conditions.

"The student effort is concerned with the national campaign," said Nestor, "but in terms of what Middlebury is doing and what is required of Middlebury, that is where President McCardell can come in, and he will hopefully answer those questions on Friday... We want to see where both parties might be able to be in the next month or so."

The Progressives organization was created this fall in response to a perceived lack of political activism on campus. The primary concerns on the Progressives' agenda are electing candidates from the Progressive Party to all levels of government while fighting for workers' and women's rights and environmental protection. The group currently has more than 100 people who have pledged to support the USAS campaign.

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Commons finalize room draw plans

(continued from page 1)
followed by sophomores.

The commons are also encouraging any students interested in joining or moving to a particular commons to take part in the commons draw. Students who wish to join a commons will draw by order of seniority after the students who are already involved with or living in the commons. A student who elects to join a particular commons will be encouraged, but not required, to participate in that common's activities.

Some commons are offering unique incentives to draw students to their commons. For example, most of the rooms in the Ross room draw will be in the section of the New Dorms that is farthest away from the Ross additions construction site.

Some commons are offering unique incentives to draw students to their commons. Ross Commons, for example, plans to offer some of the popular three- and six-person suites in the New Dorms in their draw. Most of the rooms in the Ross draw will also be in the section of the New Dorms that is farthest away from the Ross additions construction site.

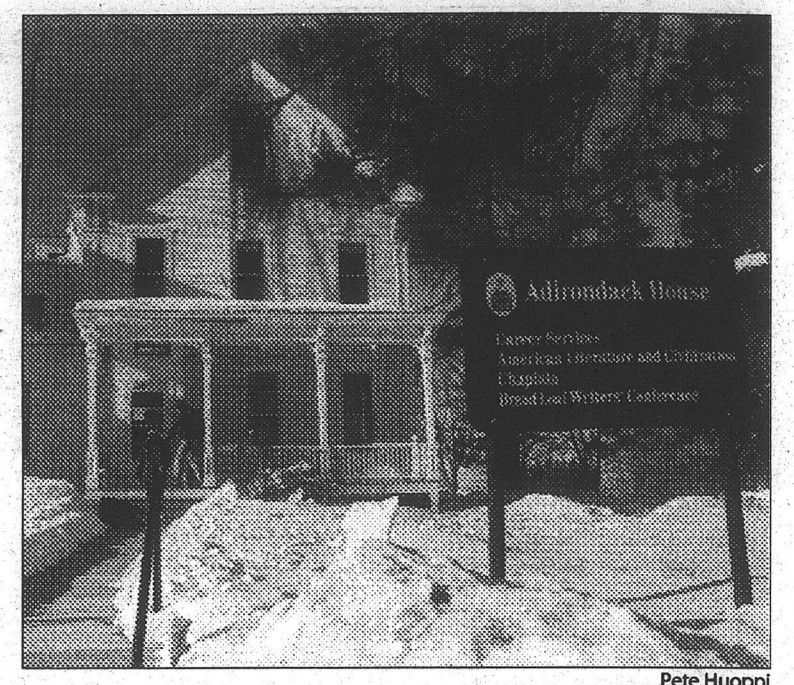
Atwater Commons will offer blocks of four and six singles as well as doubles in Coffrin and the Chateau for students who wish to live near each other. To draw for these blocks, only one student in the group needs to be a member of Atwater Commons. The Coffrin apartment will also be offered in Atwater's draw.

One of the main problems facing the commons as they create their proposals is the precedent set in recent years that the co-chairs and active members of the commons' councils receive priority over all other students in the continuing commons draw. The commons wish eventually to phase out this sort of room-draw priority in favor of a system based solely on seniority. The current proposals represent a compromise between these two extremes.

Both those involved in the commons and the Residential Life staff have high hopes for the success of the new continuing commons system both this spring and in the future. Budelsky expects that "continuing commons will be the dominant room draw in three or four years."

A key element in the process of developing the new commons draw system is that students and commons members are being given "a more active role in the governance of housing issues," said Spears. "The process here is just as important as what plans [the commons] come up with."

Giving the commons more autonomy in planning the room draw process is one more step in the effort to move the commons system forward. "We're working very hard to get to the point where each commons is more than a programming board," said Spears. Next year, each commons will have teams consisting of two Commons Residential Advisors (CRAs), a dean associated with that commons, a Commons Associate and an administrative assistant to handle commons affairs.



Pete Huoppi

Career Services has been shaken by a series of resignations and a lawsuit.

Former director of CSO files lawsuit

(continued from page 1)
termed progressive discipline, an agreement that the College would regularly perform evaluations of each employee and a fair hearing.

The former director of the CSO alleges also that letters criticizing her performance written by Middlebury graduates were not shared with her, a violation of the "progressive discipline" condition laid out in the handbook of April 1994.

Though Szymkowicz alleges that she was served with a letter calling for her replacement in 1996, her letter of resignation was not accepted until February of 1999. The reason Szymkowicz was retained as director of CSO is unclear.

In its response to Szymkowicz's complaint, Middlebury denies that the college "intended the plaintiff to rely on the employee handbook to determine the terms and conditions of her employment." The college also denies that the handbook contained the terms and conditions of employment and denies that the handbook creates any "contractual obligation" on the part of the school.

The attorneys representing the College made a motion to dismiss Szymkowicz's first count of breach of conduct, but the motion was denied.

Szymkowicz's second count was a count of defamation, which the college's representatives also made a motion to dismiss. Based on the unspecific wording of the count, the court granted the motion. The lawyers for the plaintiff submitted a revised second count, and for similar reasons the court granted the college's motion to dismiss the new count, a "breach of tort duties." Attorneys for both sides are currently looking at yet another count made on Szymkowicz's behalf.

When asked about the continuation of Szymkowicz's employment at Middlebury College, director of Human Resources Tom Corbin said that he could not make any comment on the issue.

"It's college policy, based in large part on state and federal law not to comment on an employee's employment or end of employment," said Corbin. "It is the only posture an employer can take in today's environment to hold all employee information extremely confidential."

The tentative date for the review of the case is April 7.

Sanders advocates student activism

(continued from page 1)
improve labor conditions in countries like Mexico, Vietnam and the Philippines.

Sanders emphasized the importance of student activism in putting pressure on companies like Nike, Jansport and Gear to improve labor conditions by paying a livable wage to their workers, ending child labor and extending to workers the right to organize. He criticized U.S. policies like the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that eliminate trade tariffs to developing countries. These agreements make it lucrative for American businesses to open shop in these countries because labor costs are very inexpensive. Since there are very few labor laws in these countries, corporations exploit workers by paying them as little as six cents an hour.

Moreover, the availability and legality of cheap, exploitable labor in developing countries results in the fact that many Americans will suffer from job loss and decreasing wages. "For the average American worker, that person is working longer hours for lower wages than was the case twenty years ago," said Sanders.

One student asked whether or not product prices in America would increase if sweatshop wages were raised. Sanders replied that the average American never sees the huge profits companies derive from worker exploitation. Big business, Sanders continued, simply pockets the money. He also reminded the audience that the goal of the Middlebury Progressives' anti-sweatshop campaign and those at other colleges as well, is not to make these companies withdraw from these countries, but to ensure that they remain there and that they improve labor conditions in their factories.

In closing, Sanders again emphasized the important role that students must play in forcing companies to change. He cited voter apathy, especially among young adults, as the single most important reason why the voices of average Americans and working people all over the world are not heard by our government. He implored students to vote and to engage in political activism like the Progressives' sweatshop campaign.

"These companies peg you as jerks and as consumers. They think it doesn't matter to these young people where the product was manufactured or how much the people who made it were paid. But by standing up and saying to this college, 'Excuse us, we want to know where these products are made,' [students can make a difference]. These companies are very sensitive to these issues and ultimately they will cave in and respond to your demands. You have real power over them." Things will change and are changing, urged Sanders, but that depends on college students and people all over the country to demand change from companies and lawmakers.

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5:00 Reception for visual artists, Jessica Nissen '90 and Julia Wachtel '78, CFA Lobby
8:00 Reading by Julia Alvarez '71, CFA Studio Theatre

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
10:30 Poetry Reading by Ofelia Barrios '93, Sarah Messer '88, and Suzanne Wise '87, CFA 232
11:30 Panel Discussion: "Making a Life in the Arts: Women's Personal Journeys." CFA 232
1:30 Performance of the Isabelle Eberhardt Project, CFA Studio Theatre
2:30 Performance dance piece, Gaia, CFA Dance Studio
3:00 "Vagina Dialogues" round table discussion with Eve Ensler and cast of Vagina Monologues.
4:00 Panel Discussion: "Tangential Pursuits: Artists Behind the Scenes," CFA 232
7:00 Keynote honoring alumnae achievements in the arts.
8:00 Staged Reading and discussion of Necessary Targets a play by Eve Ensler '75, writer of "Vagina Monologues" CFA Studio Theatre

SUNDAY, MARCH 14
4:00 Pianist Diana Fanning '71 in concert in the CFA Concert Hall

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Editorial

First Things First

With the implementation of policies granting up to 50 percent of rooms to Continuing Commons room draw, the Middlebury College administration repeats the disturbing mistake it made in deciding to expand the student body: once again, the administration has chosen to implement a policy without having provided the infrastructure to support it.

There are numerous and varied student concerns with regard to the new room draw system, many of which have been directed at the Commons Councils. This is, in our opinion, not warranted. The various councils comported themselves, in general, in a manner befitting the tremendous responsibility handed to them. In addition, in light of the different housing situations with which each Commons Council was forced to deal, the administration's decision to allow for differences in room draw procedures was correct.

This is not to say that the room draw plans are ideal. *The Campus* strongly disapproves of the decision to grant preferential room placement to Commons Council members for the basic reason that no other extra-curricular activity carries with it any similar tangible benefit. Due to the suddenness of the procedural change, however, we do not condemn the councils for their decisions, but simply request that such preferential treatment be halted prior to next year's room draw. Allow commons participation to face the same challenges that all other student organizations face: to maintain participation by offering an activity that is rewarding for its own sake and enjoyable to take part in.

Aside from resentment regarding preferential treatment for Commons Council members, most of the problems with the draw revolve around the inequity of housing between the commons. While Cook offers a natural housing progression that students may follow and Wonnacott boasts the greatest number of quality rooms, Brainerd and Atwater, with all due respect, consist primarily of mediocre to poor housing options—especially for upperclassmen. These issues of preferential treatment and equitable housing, in the end, all return to the decision by the administration to transfer up to 50 percent of rooms to the Continuing Commons draw.

The goal is obviously to jump-start the arduous transition to a full-blown commons system. It is undeniable that this transition will impact current students, often in less than popular ways. The administration often argues, however, that, unlike current students, they must think in the long term— ten and twenty years down the road. Is it too much to ask though, that some effort be made to minimize the inequities that exist between commons before confining students to the commons in which they currently reside? For example, a new building in Atwater Commons, with suites designed for seniors, would go a long way towards making Atwater more desirable at the same time that it makes continuing commons more acceptable.

It is not the administration's long term policy with which *The Campus* takes issue. Rather, it is the rush to implement it at the expense of the current generation of students that concerns us. We understand and agree that policies must begin to change in order to make the commons work. All we ask is that the college take an incremental approach to the process—one that provides the facilities to meet the needs of the current generation of students at the same time that it furthers the long-term goals of the college.

The Middlebury Campus

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SO IT DAWNS ON ME THE OTHER DAY THAT IT'S OUR SENIOR YEAR...
TOOK YA A FEW MONTHS!
NO! LISTEN MAN. THIS SPRING BREAK IS THE LAST OF OUR LIVES! ONE LAST GASP OF SWEET HEDONISM, AND THEN...
BEER...
SO WHAT'RE YOU DOING FOR BREAK?
NUTHIN.
WHAT?!?
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, COME JUNE I'M ON SPRING BREAK FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

Zach Sinick

Letters to the Editor

McCardell's inaction frustrates Sig Ep

On Monday, January 18, 1999, the executive committee of Sigma Epsilon went before the Community Council to present a petition for reinstatement. This process entailed two hours of discussion between the two organizations, followed by several additional hours of debate within the Community Council itself. During this time the Council decided upon its recommendation to President McCardell.

Within a week, the drafted proposal was on the President's desk in Old Chapel. And today, almost two months later, that is where it remains.

In the past several months, the issue of Sig Ep's reinstatement has volleyed between the President and the Community Council several times, each time without a forthcoming decision. This is a stellar example of administrative bureaucracy, the dangers of which each Middlebury student should recognize as imminent.

It proves that the administration can avoid making difficult, yet important, decisions by miring them in red tape. If this can happen to Sig Ep, it can, and probably has, happened to other campus organizations or individual students.

It proves that the administration can avoid making difficult, yet important decisions by miring them in red tape.

The members of Sigma Epsilon certainly did not expect the College community to roll out the red carpet and welcome us back unequivocally. We did expect a fair hearing, however, which we certainly believe that we received from the Community Council. Unfortunately, the deliberation period has been disrespectfully long, and the President is solely at fault. In postponing his decision to such an extent, he has already prevented Sigma Epsilon's participation in the IHC "rush" process. This complicating efforts to return, while immediately establishing Sig Ep as separate from the other social houses before he even makes a decision as to reinstatement.

He is shamelessly stating to the College community that the final decision is his and his alone.

(see Sig Ep, page 7)

Davis clarifies college's enrollment plans

I am writing, as chair of the Enrollment Committee, to clarify the college's plans for the size of the student body for the 1999-2000 academic year. These plans were referred to in the article on room draw in the March 3 issue of *The Campus*. The student body will be slightly smaller in 1999-2000 than it has been in 1998-99. The full-time enrollment in fall 1998 and spring 1999 will average 2220 students. Our plan is that full-time enrollment for Fall 1999 and Spring 2000 will average 2190 students. This slight reduction in the overall enrollment will be brought about primarily through a decrease in the size of the first-year student class. Our goal for next September's first-year class is 540 students, down by 25 students from the fall 1998 first-year class. The purpose of the reduction in student enrollment for 1999-2000 is to bring enrollment more closely into line with the capacity of the college's infrastructure: residence hall rooms, dining halls and classrooms. As a temporary measure, there will be a slight increase in the number of full-time seniors allowed to live off-campus in 1999-2000. This is because of the short-term loss of beds due to the Ross Commons construction project that will be underway next year. When Ross Commons comes fully back on-line in the fall of 2000, the number of seniors allowed to live off-campus will be correspondingly reduced.

The student body will be slightly smaller in 1999-2000 than it has been in 1998-1999.

Eric L. Davis is the Secretary of the Middlebury College.

Corrections

A page two article in the March 3 edition of *The Campus* incorrectly stated that the student body will increase in size for the 1999-2000 academic year.

O'Donohoe discovers the strip club experience

I had never been in a strip club before this Saturday, and I was twenty-one years old. My father had told me that he was twenty before he had ever set eyes on a Playboy magazine. I guess

Brendan O'Donohoe '99

adults grow up faster these days.

It was a dark place, but well kept. As we shuffled through the door, shaking the cold from our shoulders, the bouncer decided to extort a cover charge. He appeared ignorant of the English language until someone pushed money into his hand; then I knew he was smart enough to know how not to speak it. The room that we entered was dimly lit, and the colors all gleamed in midnight blues. Mirrors covered almost every corner of the room, amplifying the visual shock waves and bending them so everyone with clothes could watch those without, and those without could watch those within. As we entered, I saw a naked woman parading herself upon a small pedestal.

As we entered, I saw a naked woman parading herself upon a small pedestal.

You would think that I expected to find naked people in the strip club, that I would have somehow steeled myself to enjoy this. Unfortunately, I had some fantasy of strippers adhering to the calling of their name, and simply stripping the entire time, never actually reaching their goal. It woke me up to see a girl who was entirely nude, except for the glitter of metal rings hanging from her nipples. She slowly undulated like a snake climbing to the sky on a stool in between a three hundred-pound man's knees. He tried to keep his tongue in his mouth while he looked up at her like she was sent from God. Perhaps she was.

Eye candy abounded in this den. Finally one of my friends decided that I was not having a good enough time, that I was not living the experience. I was thinking too much about it. I couldn't stop thinking about the implications of bartering genetic currency with a Marxian one. Thinking stuff like that will always draw you out of your life, even when you think you learn it so you can get drawn in.

If I was not going to get myself a lap dance, he was. I wondered at the thought of it. I was scared. What if I liked it a lot? What if I liked it too much?

What if I got aroused? What did that say about me? What if I wasn't aroused? What would that say about me?

She was from Barbados. She was perfect. She kneeled down in front of me and put out her sun-browned hand. "My name is Stephanie," she said. She asked me how old I was. I told her twenty-four. She told me she was twenty-seven. I was the one who lied less.

I thought this might be fun. I mean seriously, how could it not be? There was an unbelievably gorgeous girl in front of me, trying to turn me on. She was thin, like the rest, but with full breasts. I looked for the definition of muscle, and saw that she was simply skinny, probably starving herself to keep her weight down. I looked up to see what she would do.

Her eyes were brown and large, perfect complements to her skin. They eluded my gaze. They flitted around the room. No, they swam. They were lifeless, yet alive, like sharks. She finally looked down on me. Something was strange; she didn't like it. I didn't like it either. I looked up at her for perhaps ten seconds, before she averted her gaze again. My shoulders sank, and I didn't want to draw in breath again. This was so screwed up. I was paying someone to stand there naked before me and dance, but she couldn't even look at me. She sensed it too. She stopped dancing and bent down. "Why do you keep staring at me like some Romeo?" Romeo, well, there's someone I felt nothing like. I felt nothing. I somehow smiled, even though I knew my eyes were becoming as dead as hers, when my wit kicked in. "Why do you keep staring back like Rosaline?" She looked confused. It stopped her from looking for the next customer.

I hated my joke. I hated the irony. I hated myself. I hated when she called me shy. I hated that she was right. I hated her. I hated that she wouldn't look at me. I hated that we objectified each other. I was just a piece of money, and she was just a piece of meat. I despised the conversation that I had for the next few moments about summer swimming in Barbados at night; how everyone skinny-dips there; how people make love in the water and how you could never do that in that in Ireland because the cold salt waves thrust more tear-taste down your throat than you could enjoy, and thanked God that my jabber stopped her from writhing.

The Metallica version of "Turn the Page" was playing. It was the one with the video of the erotic dancer who gets raped while prostituting herself and afterwards her seven-year-old daughter, who heard everything in the next room, enters to comfort her crying mother. The music ends, and the woman states if she could do it over again, she would do it exactly the same.

I got up to leave and gave her all the money that I had in my pocket. I was colder than when I had walked in. Outside the wind stung my face, and I felt my color return. I decided then that I knew why I hated that video.

The politically apathetic at Middlebury

Albert Einstein once said that when one is dealing with a complex subject leave the elegance to the tailor. In the same spirit I'll try to be as direct as possible. For all those who believed that authori-

Senake Gajameragedara '99

tarian outcomes would never see the light of day in the land of the free, welcome to Middlebury College. I applaud Robby Levy's article in the Campus last November on the need for more student impact on the Commons initiative. Robby, a senior SGA member, vented his frustration at an administration that simply paid lip service to formal SGA input in the Commons decision-making process. In Robby's own words: "Let us not fool ourselves and realize that SGA, *the Campus*, and other student organizations are as powerless on important decisions as a turkey on Thanksgiving Day." Robby's article raises important concerns for us, the current students at Middlebury. We are forced to reassess the channels we use to give our input, including the SGA. We are forced to wonder just how much our opinion counts in establishing the McCardellian vision of student life as a "peak of excellence." We are forced to ask ourselves whether we have a coherent "our opinion." We are forced to wonder how much we care about our own views on the way we live and about larger social issues at Middlebury in general.

In this article, I try to see how we can answer these questions. On the one hand, I argue that both structure and process were, at best, unaccommodating toward student input. No wonder that all the SGA got was mere lip service. On the other hand, this reality takes advantage of the generally apolitical and fragmented nature of the Middlebury student body. Only committed political action on our part, if we care enough about our views, will change the biased power-relationship that currently favors the administration juggernaut. The initiative therefore lies with us. At the outset, I must mention for the record that this article is not directed against the administration, any individual or the commons initiative, but, rather, it is for contemplation (and hopefully action) by the student body that I've grown to love. Let's now see where exactly we are in enhancing residential life in Middlebury.

Recent History: On October 31, 1998, the Board of Trustees,(1) accepted the administration position of implementing the majority recommendations of the Enhanced Residential Plan on dining, faculty proximity, and continuing membership, (2) agreed with the administration recommendation on deferring issues relevant to the relationship between the house system and the commons, and (3) authorized the administration to implement phase one of the Facilities Plan. For reasons of impact and space, this article will focus on the first recommendation. I suspect that many of us do not know what the Enhanced Residential Plan or its majority recommendations are. In their September 15, 1997 resolution, the trustees charged the immediate college community (i.e., students, faculty and staff) to draft a residential plan following President McCardell's presentation of his vision of a fully-decentralized residential system. After nine months of discussion among students, faculty and staff, the Residential Life Committee drafted the "Enhanced Residential Plan," dated May 8, 1998. This plan dealt with three "Cornerstones" (decentralized dinning, faculty proximity and Continuing Commons membership), the House system (social and academic) in the new commons and the idea of a stronger, more vibrant Student Center.

We are forced to wonder just how much our opinion counts in establishing the McCardellian vision of student life as a "peak of excellence."

Structure: The Committee unanimously agreed on the specifics of Continuing Commons membership and the physical location of proximate faculty while being divided on decentralized dining and on relationships between Commons and Social Houses as well as those between Commons and Academic Interest Houses. Reading of the Plan reveals that the majority positions in the disputed issues were usual-

(see Dictatorial, page 8)

Wiser questions student representation in the SGA

The recent decision by the SGA to require that candidates for president and vice president run on the same ticket only confirms something that I have known for a while: The SGA is an illegitimate, unrepresentative

Mike Wiser '00

institution which primarily serves the interests of a small, elitist group of hacks.

Despite a courageous effort last year by Bryan Stratton, the SGA failed to bring about a "revolution" of inclusion.

What Bryan did not realize is that the problem is not the people who are involved in the SGA. The problem is that the SGA's fundamental design fails to represent the students.

The heart of this farce is the General Assembly. The General Assembly, largely constituted of students who ran in uncontested elections, fails to represent what diversity exists at Middlebury.

The SGA is an illegitimate, unrepresentative institution which primarily serves the interests of a small, elitist group of hacks.

The SGA reactionaries will tell you that this is because students are apathetic and simply do not care about what goes on at our school.

The truth is that most students recognize the General Assembly for the impotent, purposeless and exceedingly boring body that it is. Students are not apathetic; they simply do not see any opportunity to get involved in politics in any meaningful way.

It lacks power, because it is not seen as truly representing students.

The General Assembly is stuck in a cycle of illegitimacy. It lacks power, because it is not seen as truly representing students. It does not represent students, because its lack of power means that most students are not willing to waste the time to get involved.

What little legitimacy does exist, lies in the executive.

The Executive Council is the SGA. The latest changes will have two devastating effects on an already ailing system.

First, it will consolidate the council into a homogenous body that cannot hope to represent the diverse views of students. Second, it will discourage independent, outside candidates from running for president or vice president.

What is to be done? "Students should take the system more seriously and work through the system," the SGA reactionary hacks will say. No, the system needs to be completely replaced.

First, the town of Middlebury is one of the last places in America where local policy is still decided by town hall meetings. It is pathetic that Middlebury College feels the need for a pseudo-representative democracy in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly needs to be opened up, so that any student in attendance would be able to vote on issues that they feel are important. "Special interest groups will swamp the General Assembly," the reactionaries will caution.

So be it. If one group were to try to dominate the General Assembly for its own advantage and other students actually cared, then they should show up to the next meeting.

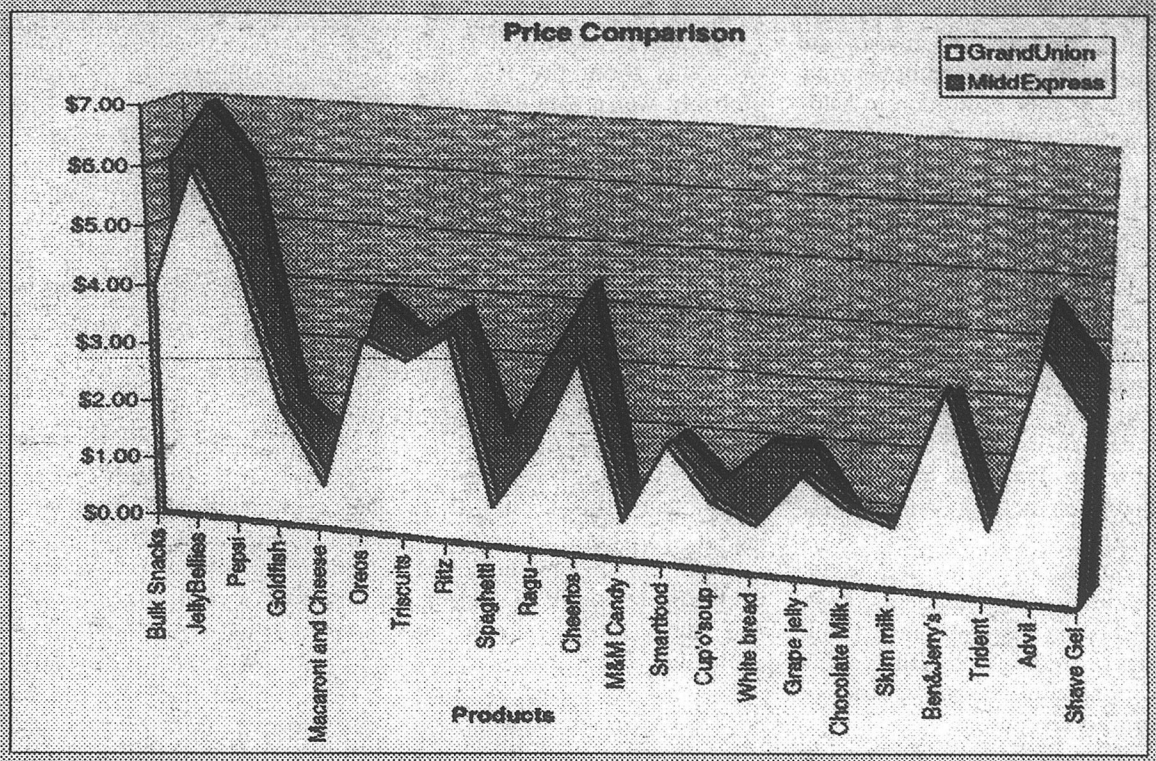
Besides, an elitist special interest group already dominates the General Assembly.

Second, key positions in the executive council should be elected, not appointed. No member of the SGA has more power than the treasurer (a.k.a. the chair of the Finance Committee).

This is the case despite the fact that, the treasurer is appointed through a mysterious, archaic, hereditary process, which the elected president is forced to sign off on. If the treasurer were elected, not only would he or she be more responsive to students, but he or she would also have more legitimacy.

I'll probably just give up on my revolution. I guess it's all pointless anyway, eh?

Dimaria investigates different prices at MiddXpress and Grand Union



Thomas Paine said, "What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly." He meant to say that those things that we acquire without sufferance we do not fully appreciate. Would Paine

Mike Dimaria '99.5

value the Jelly Belly's he purchased at MiddXpress more than those purchased in town at Grand Union? After all, they cost $.96 more per pound on campus than at the grocery store just five minutes away.

This investigative price comparison found that 82% of the 26 products compared were more costly at MiddXpress than at Grand Union.

Where direct brand-name comparisons were not possible, scientific rigor was compromised in the interests of a more comprehensive exploration, so comparable products were substituted for exact matches. For example, if a certain brand of macaroni and cheese was not carried by one store or another, brands roughly equivalent in quality were compared. The most expensive option and the least expensive were never compared, usually the most modestly priced brand short of the generic items was selected. Barring a statistical analysis that would report the significance of the difference, the distinction was prevalent enough to arouse interest in this formal investigation. Prices were compared based on the cost indicated on the actual product or on the shelf below the item. Taxes or additional costs were not dealt with at all.

First, the prices were simply tougher to find at MiddXpress. Many products don't have stickers or signs on or around them. When asked, a clerk was only able to reveal the price of several items after scanning their bar codes; having rung them up, the clerk then proceeded to scan them again to reverse the transaction. Evidently, there are very few people who know how much things cost until after they are actually bought. If a customer walks in and simply collects items that he may need and then finds them to be more expensive than expected he would be put in a position where it would be necessary to ask the clerk to re-scan the items and replace them.

Chunky Monkey is after all the reason I came here from Denver: I feel misled to this day.

In contrast, Grand Union's stock was clearly labeled.

The greatest price differences do not follow a pattern based on the type of product. For example, toiletries do not necessarily cost more than candy.

Certain items, like Crest toothpaste and Pepto-Bismol, are not sold in large containers on campus, but when compared to the grocer's product in terms of cost per fluid ounce, they are more expensive. An 8-ounce tube of Crest costs $3.59 at Grand Union and a 4.6-ounce tube costs $2.29 at MiddXpress. This translates to a cost of $0.45 an ounce for Grand Union's product and a cost of $0.50 an ounce at Middextorsion/Xpress.

There are cases in which it is cheaper to buy MiddXpress' products—some important cases, one might say. Monument Farms milk, in both quart and pint sizes, is more expensive at Grand Union.

No longer can students speculate that MiddXpress overcharges for its goods, because it does.

Ben and Jerry's ice cream is also cheaper to buy on campus than at the supermarket. Instead of reading, "Ben and Jerry's ice cream served at every meal!" in Barron's College Guide, perhaps it should read something more like, "Ben and Jerry's is not that expensive at college store!" (Chunky Monkey is after all the reason I came here from Denver: I feel misled to this day.) The manufacturer standardizes the prices of other products, like Goldfish crackers and Smartfood popcorn, so there can be no price difference.

Based on the products compared here, products tend to be priced lower at Grand Union than at MiddXpress. No longer should students speculate that MiddXpress overcharges for its goods: it does.

The ease and simplicity of stopping in to buy a drink and a snack after picking up mail will draw students into the store, despite the obviously high prices. The steady traffic of students in and out of the store attests to the success imparted on the store due to its location.

In reconsideration, Thomas Paine would never have bought the Jelly Belly's from MiddXpress in the first place. After all, he was the man who said, "He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression."

It is doubtful that Paine would allow himself or his enemies to suffer the injustice of uneconomical Jelly Belly's.

Sig Ep struggles with 'unfair' actions of McCardell

(continued from page 5)

In doing so, he is inherently expressing a disregard for one of the most representative and supposedly powerful organizations on campus: the Community Council.

The membership of Sigma Epsilon finds President McCardell's delayed decision completely arrogant and disrespectful.

Furthermore, if his silence is not rooted in audacity, then it is rooted in something even less admirable: cowardice.

The social house question is one of the more politically volatile issues with which President McCardell is confronted, and thus far, he has avoided taking a definitive stand on the question of the system's future.

Thus, perhaps his chosen tactic is to sweep the matter under the rug, or at least back to the Community Council.

Although he contends that Sig Ep's reinstatement is a completely different issue, he is most certainly aware that it will not be perceived as such by students and, especially, faculty.

Thus, perhaps his chosen tactic is to sweep the matter under the rug, or at least back to the Community Council, presumably until after pledge starts next week, when the entire issue becomes moot.

Regardless of his motivation, the membership of Sigma Epsilon finds President McCardell's delayed decision completely arrogant and disrespectful, especially to the Sig Ep executive committee who expended much time and effort trying to formulate plans for an improved house which would truly benefit the Middlebury College community.

Who could argue that we deserve a timely decision, even if it is a polite denial?

Benjamin Newman is currently the president of Sigma Epsilon and Aimee Sanders is currently the vice president of Sigma Epsilon.

Leopold raises concerns about safety priorities

This past fall, I led a tour group through Stewart. I casually opened the main door to the dorm and walked down a hall where I knocked on the door of an unsuspecting

Megan Leopold '99.5

freshman. The freshman willingly showed his room to the prospective students, and we left, continuing on toward Proctor. A totally uneventful tour, right? Wrong. As soon as we left the dorm, I was accosted by a panic-stricken mother who could not believe the dorms on campus were not locked. And, by the way, where were the blue light security phones that they had seen on other campuses like Williams?

I tried to reassure her by telling her that I felt safe on campus. I explained that Middlebury students are comfortable walking alone at night, that security and students are constantly patrolling the campus, and finally that Middlebury, Vermont, is a very small town and that security is not really a problem here. The mother refused to be dismissed though, and her sentiments were echoed by other parents on the tour: "That's all well and good, but it still means that any person can enter your dorm at anytime."

I had to agree with her to prevent an argument, but I finished the tour with a very uneasy feeling. I felt uncomfortable portraying Middlebury as a bastion of security when, in fact, it isn't. I was, in a way, lying. These kinds of security issues can and do affect Middlebury students.

I felt uncomfortable portraying Middlebury as a bastion of security when, in fact, it isn't. I was, in a way, lying.

These security issues affected me. My sophomore year, a large man who was passing through town, entered my room in Gifford late at night and refused to leave. Although I was unharmed by this incident, and although security dealt with the problem, I felt violated and betrayed. Later, I discovered that this same man had been living undetected in the basement of the Chateau for several days. All I could think of at the time was the many ways an incident like mine could have been prevented.

I raise this issue in light of a new policy in effect at the athletics complex. In order to ensure the security of the complex and the rights of its users, all persons entering the facility must show a college ID. This is a very simple and needed policy, but it sends mixed messages in regards to Middlebury's other security policies: We want to protect the athletics facility and its users, but we are unwilling to ensure the security of students in their dorms.

We want to protect the athletics facility and its users, but we are unwilling to ensure the security of students in their dorms.

I realize that Middlebury has taken initiatives this year to deal with security issues including MiddRides, safety phones and RAD training. These are all very important improvements, but they do not address the simple question of the mother on my tour.

I am not suggesting that we lock down the campus in a way that is unattractive or exclusionary to the Middlebury College community. Rather, I propose some type of universal swipe system, similar to that of many other colleges, in which we use our handy MiddCards to access all dorms on campus.

This would not frighten prospective students nor prevent Middlebury students from stopping over to visit a friend late at night. It would, however, solve the problem of any person entering the dorm at any time. Middlebury College is currently spending millions of dollars to upgrade its facilities, buildings, communications and technologies.

Is it too much to ask that a little of this money be directed toward ensuring our security so that we can enjoy these improvements?

Rutherford calls for action against internal SGA bureaucracy

Blake Rutherford '00.5

The SGA, thanks to certain members of its Executive Committee, has found itself in a free-fall. I say this because as secretary of representatives in the fall, I've been in close contact with these few rogue members and have witnessed their tactics. Let's analyze a couple of situations here.

First, in an unprecedented fashion, the SGA has seen three of its appointed members (executive committee) resign over the way the SGA and certain members were handling themselves.

This is in no way an attempt to speak for the other two members so please do not perceive it as such. However, the common theme for our resignations is absolutely amazing. And to top that off, we were replaced by close friends of the president without any consultation with the vice president. Let us not forget that two of the newly appointed members consisted of one with no prior SGA experience and the other with only a semester of college under her belt. In the end, it is not that big of a deal. Everyone needs a place to get his or her start. Unfortunately, it is often inexperience that leads to problems, and the current situation is case in point.

By now, hopefully many of you have heard about the bill that created the Student-Security Relations Committee, thanks to SGA President Felton's detailed e-mail message last week informing the campus of its passage. For those of you who do not have any knowledge of this, the bill essentially creates another SGA committee charged with assessing the relationships that students have with security. This committee will be comprised of students and staff from various campus offices. In theory, this sounds like a great idea. This is a very important issue that affects the daily lives of all members of the Middlebury community. The problem doesn't rest with the bill itself. Where the problem lies goes way beyond any piece of legislation and rests with certain members of the SGA leadership.

The SGA, thanks to certain members of its Executive Committee, has found itself in a free-fall.

Two Sundays ago the SGA entertained the bill to create this new committee. I, as co-chair of the Task Force on Campus Safety, was opposed to it, seeing as how it is something we've been addressing for a year and a half. And it also creates the kind of bureaucratic garbage that former SGA President Bryan Stratton despised and I thought President Felton wasn't too fond of either. I guess I was wrong. In the end, I applaud the efforts of the sponsors of the bill for their enthusiasm on this issue and welcome them to our discussions about this matter. However, if I can offer a piece of advice: Always look at the entire picture. Don't take anything at face value when it comes to dealing with certain Executive Committee members, especially those interested only in your vote producing power, and not in your ideas or your dedication to helping your constituents.

My next serious concern relates to the way the Committee was selected. First off, the bill did not indicate or specify co-chairs of this particular committee. Furthermore, at the time of its passage, President Felton had not indicated to the General Assembly that if the bill were to go through the co-chairs would be who they now are. President Stratton did that when the Task Force was created.

So here's what happened: Secretary of Appointments Laurie McMahon appoints herself and Irakly Areshedsze co-chairs of the committee in a blatant violation of process and power.

Then, without conducting any interviews, they select the committee, which includes four SGA members, including themselves. Rumor had it that 10 others were denied based on a diverse applicant pool. Go figure.

The SGA Constitution outlines a process by which committee appointments should be assigned. Over the years that process has, by convention, been amended to include the president, vice president, and secretary of appointments.

In the event that a more pertinent person is needed, say for Finance, Community Council or even Student-Alumni Relations, the appropriate committee chair is brought in to help conduct the process. Until now, this more informal process has never been abused or mishandled. The appointments process is one that needs to be seriously revamped. I believe it leaves too much room for manipulation and doesn't allow for an impartial process to occur. I know from experience. Too often, the president has the power to hand-select members and to "request" of the appointments secretary a slate of appointments, and then by some miracle these same people end up on particular committees. This is not rocket science, folks. When the appointments secretary is hand selected by the president, and the president or the secretary lacks the ethical code to avoid crap like this, problems will occur and chaos will reign.

However, I cannot condemn the position too much. My close buddy, Alex Zwerdling, held it this fall, and I can think of no person of whom I hold in higher ethical regard than Alex. Not because he's my friend, but because I've seen him work. He earned that distinction with me. I'm sure you're proud, Al.

So I guess you could say there's a little give and take. The importance of the way the secretary of appointments and Mr. Areshedsze conducted themselves is important, but what is more important is how this relates to the SGA as a whole. Due to a lack of leadership by its highest official, b.s. like this has been allowed to take place all year.

For those of you who don't give two cents about the SGA, you probably won't care too much about this opinion. But for many of you who I've spoken with and listened to your concerns, stand up and don't let them get away with this. It is simply not right.

I left the SGA because I couldn't stand practices like these. Don't get me wrong, there are only a select few bad apples that engage in this garbage, and I believe that I've described them here.

There are many others who work hard on behalf of students, and their efforts should be applauded. When the elections roll around this spring, please do not blow them off. Although you may feel, as our current President does, that the "SGA has no power," you are misinformed. The SGA has enormous potential and power, if entrusted to the right hands.

We, the student body, deserve better than what we're getting from a select few of our leaders and their political appointees. I took the easy way out and probably the wrong one, because it was easy. I tried to lead the fight from the inside to once again put students first in the minds of all Executive Committee members.

We, the student body, deserve better than what we're getting from a select few of our leaders and their political appointees.

I guess, in a sense, I failed in that regard. But I cannot sit back and watch it continue. I was relieved in a way when I sat through the meeting where the Student-Security Relations Committee bill was debated. I was relieved that I'm now outside the system because it was just sickening. I watched the entire legislative system be manipulated before my eyes, just so certain people can win points in the eyes of freshman leaders.

More important than politics is process. We are governed under the notion that proper legislative and committee selection processes will occur.

For years it has been understood and expected that our leaders would not abuse their power. That was the case until now. Last week I had faith that the president could restore order to this chaotic environment, but I was wrong, and as a result, we've all suffered. The spring elections couldn't come soon enough.

Dictorial tendencies and student apathy

(continued from page 6)

ly closer to administration viewpoints while the minority view was closer to student views. The composition of the 20-member committee is also interesting: 11 students, four faculty and five staff members. From sources I learned that the faculty and staff tended to vote together largely favoring administration positions along with several student members. Therefore, without stretching too much, it can be pointed out that since nine votes were pretty much in the bag only two student votes out of 11 were necessary for an administration-friendly outcome. Not to challenge their integrity, out of the 11 students, at least four or five were already RAs close to Residential Life and would later become CRAs. Myself an RA, I know many of these students personally so I say this not to accuse them (or faculty/staff) of being part of a "conspiracy," but to stress that the outcome of the committee should not be at all very surprising. There was no possible way of the major pillars of the commons to be constructed other than according to administration specifics.

The administration capitalized on what business-strategy calls the first-mover advantage. It tabled a hefty proposal first and had everyone scrambling to react marginally within an already favorable Committee structure. Whatever marginal reactions students had appeared to have were mitigated by process and procedure.

Process: I'm just going to focus on decentralized dining (DD), a prospect to which the students who took the Residential Life survey responded overwhelmingly negatively.

Most cited "the Proctor experience" as their reason despite the crowding that has incidentally worsened in '98-'99. The significance of student concerns manifested as the minority opinion on DD in the Enhanced Residential Life Plan. It stated: "Status quo with improvements. Our system is already decentralized. We should expand Proctor and renovate existing facilities so they can more comfortably accommodate our student population." The majority opinion: fully decentralized. A dining hall for every commons, each located within the commons cluster. Decentralized dining halls would give each commons its own space for programming events, thus providing a critical environment for building community. But President McCardell recommended only the majority opinion when he tabled the plan for trustee consideration.

The administration has done an appalling job in explaining why it chose the opinions it forwarded to the Trustees

Why was this? What was the point then in noting a Minority opinion that was most probably voted by a majority of the students on the Residential Life Committee?

Student Politics: I took a few questions like this and Robby's complaint to a faculty member whom I believed to be in the know. I asked about the shoddy treatment given to student opinion by the administration. The answer I got came in two parts. First the whole process involving student input was simply for political purposes. Robby's accusation of lip-service seems justified.

Second, as far as the commons planning was concerned, I was informed that it was the view of the administration that student views were not coherently or persuasively put forward by the SGA. Maybe we are not properly organized for, or represented, in things political here at Middlebury.

In parting: As I write this Sunday night, with heaps of snow around, the commons is a foregone conclusion with just some details to be ironed out.

I actually happen to like some things about the commons. However, I am not too awed by the way it became reality. President McCardell, as far as I know, did not bother replying to Robby's allegations. Those however cannot be just swept under the carpet. The administration has done an appalling job in explaining why it chose the opinions it forwarded to the trustees.

It has completely ignored student criticism. Time is certainly on the side of Old Chapel, and it would be naive to assume that the powers that be would not take advantage of student apathy. In a few years when the Commons initiative moves into high gear all of us who remember the "old Middlebury" would have graduated. So, more importantly, here's something to think about.

We are way too apolitical when it comes to wider issues. As a result, we are disadvantaged in organizing and developing a "student opinion."

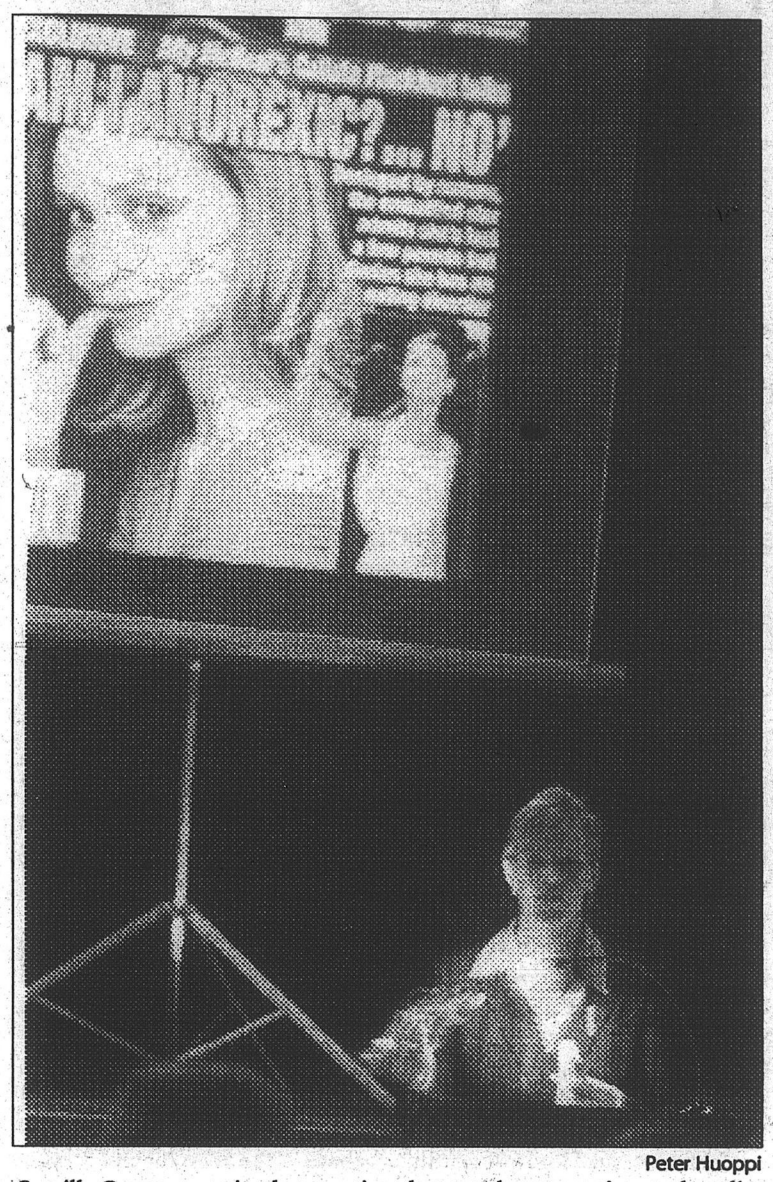
As much as we care about our own thing and no matter how busy we are, one way we can clearly show that we care about Middlebury now is to be politically active when it comes to the big issues (race, hate crime and diversity issues, for instance).

It is up to us to organize and act in ways that will be taken seriously, to take a risk for greater rewards.

Personally, I regret having limited my own political activities in the past three and a half years, but my mistake need not be others' as well. As it is, make no mistake that the power resides at Old Chapel.

It is shared on peripheral issues on the whims and fancies of the administration. It is up to us to organize and act in ways that will be taken seriously, to take a risk for greater rewards.

We must ensure our opinions and representative channels are vibrant and worthy, not reactive or marginal. Finally, I'd like to applaud the spirit of the Middlebury Progressives Club that gives me a glimmer of hope. O latent political spirits rise from your Middlebury slumber!



Peter Huoppi

Camille Cooper examined connections between beauty, society and media.

Price of beauty too high, says Cooper

By Bryn Kenny
Staff Writer

Philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche once said: "When a woman becomes a scholar, there is usually something wrong with her sexual organs." The hush that went over the predominantly female crowd of Camille Cooper's multi-media lecture entitled "What Price Beauty?" was suprisingly lacking in shock value. Each woman and man in the audience had heard something like this before, had grown up in culture where little girls dress up as princesses for Halloween and little boys are action heroes and doctors. What Ms. Cooper's opening remark accomplished was something more along the lines of sighs of relief. Finally, we were going to get to talk about something that has become an almost dangerously accepted aspect of society: the expectations and pressures put on women to be beautiful.

So what is beauty anyway? As Ms. Cooper explained, according to the media, which bombards us with millions of images every day of our lives, beauty is impossibly thin, void of any imperfections, airbrushed, tucked, nipped and tightened. Beauty doesn't exist. Yet we can't turn on the television without watching another long-legged 90210 nymphet prance across the screen in a halter top and be rewarded for it. Even Disney movies offer an outrageously warped view of what a woman should be: a doe-eyed, submissive, emotional doormat.

Ms Cooper's own conventionally beautiful face was hidden behind a podium.

Ms. Cooper's own conventionally beautiful face was hidden behind a podium and insufficient lighting. The audience was instead forced to focus on an array of magazine covers, advertisements and images projected on the screen behind her. An almost nude Demi Moore peered out at us from a Rolling Stone magazine cover. A cover that, as Ms. Cooper explained, had been airbrushed to remove all wrinkles, moles and stretch marks, as well as altered to remove an inch from each side of her hips. Now if Demi Moore, a woman who makes a living off the way she looks, must be so blatantly modified to appear acceptable to society's "standards," what message is this image sending women, men and children all over the world? It, and countless other photos like it, are giving us an ideal to strive for that can't possibly ever be reached. How enlightening.

Beginning with issues dealt with by children as young as first

(see Cooper, page 11)

Zoo plays cast a promising shadow

By Thaya Brook
News Editor

What can be expected of a production whose rehearsals included the study of horror films? Blood, maybe, ghosts, ghastly screams. Last weekend's "Shadowbox" delivered all of the above.

The trilogy of one-act plays began with "Power Failure," by Andy Mitton '01. The sign just outside the door of the Hepburn Zoo warned audience members that "'Shadowbox' contains periods of absolute darkness and sudden flashes of light."

From the pre-show music to the bizarre pieces of crooked wood that arched over the audience's heads, the atmosphere of the production was well-crafted.

"Periods of absolute darkness" was an understatement in "Power Failure." Set during a week-long power failure in Boston, the play questions the power of sight and the validity of the importance we attach to it. The house lights went down at the beginning of the play, but no lights came up on stage for the entire length of the play.

The voice of Frank Wildermann '99 met the audience from somewhere near the front of the theater and was answered by Meg Taintor's '01 voice from somewhere near the back. Taintor's voice was easy to locate but hard to pin down. One line sounded from the left of the house and the next came from the aisle. She might be on the other side of the theater and, in the next moment, right at the elbow of a surprised audience member.

The use of darkness in the play was brilliant. The most frightening moment of a horror film is when the monster is in the room, but no one knows exactly where. By keeping the audience in the dark throughout the play, this moment of uncertainty was continually suspended.

The only light in the entire play was the occasional flash from a Polaroid camera and a short period when there was a lighted candle. The flash from the camera came and went before it was possible to distinguish what had appeared. While it seemed like a relief, it actually did nothing more than make the audience's eyes unaccustomed to the dark again.

The only shortcoming of this play was the very fact of its being close to the horror genre. The central issue—the question of how important sight actually is and how much we are blinded to its shortcomings—was somewhat buried. In order for horror to work, there must be predator and prey. There were moments of true connection between Agatha (Taintor) and Mitchell (Wildermann). Ultimately, however, it was unclear what Agatha actually wanted or why she enjoyed killing Mitchell in the end. The need to make her a predator resulted in making her invulnerable and therefore somewhat two-dimensional.

"The One and Only Prayer," by Jesse Holland '01, contained some of the best surprise casting of the Middlebury theater season. Mitton, most often cast as the juvenile at Middlebury, brought amazing subtlety and consistent focusto the role of Doug, the mentally retarded protagonist. What was so marvelous about his performance was that he seemed to be trying all the time to behave "normally." The greatest trap of playing a handicapped character can be to play the handicap, not the attempt to overcome the handicap. Mitton stayed wide of this trap while keeping the "retardedness" of the character consistent throughout the 45-minute piece.

Another piece of interesting casting was Otter Nonsense player, Steve Waltien '00.5, who showed that he need not always play the comical role. He made good use of his lanky height and sharply defined features to create a menacing image as Jerry, the teenager who assaults Doug and threatens to kill him. His death-scream, a truly terrifying noise in the still pitch-black theater, was a real triumph. While

(see Shadowy, page 11)

Tibetan student shares a heritage of movement

By Anne Dewitt
Arts Editor

The country of Tibet has become a cause célèbre in recent months. Invaded by China in 1959, this Buddhist Asian country has existed under occupation as well as cultural and religious oppression ever since. Public consciousness in the United States about the Tibetan situation has grown with widespread concerts in support of the Free Tibet movement.

Middlebury student Tenzin Dolker '99, who wrote her thesis about exiles from her home country of Tibet, gave a concert about her homeland last Friday, March 6, in the Center for the Arts dance theater.

The emotional trauma of a politically oppressed regime appeared in stark reality as Tenzin broke into tears reading the introduction to her presentation. Tenzin's voice broke as she struggled to articulate the details of Tibet's turbulent past, and she bent her head, wiping tears from her cheeks. Dance department professor Andrea Olsen, who had introduced Dolker, rose to comfort the student.

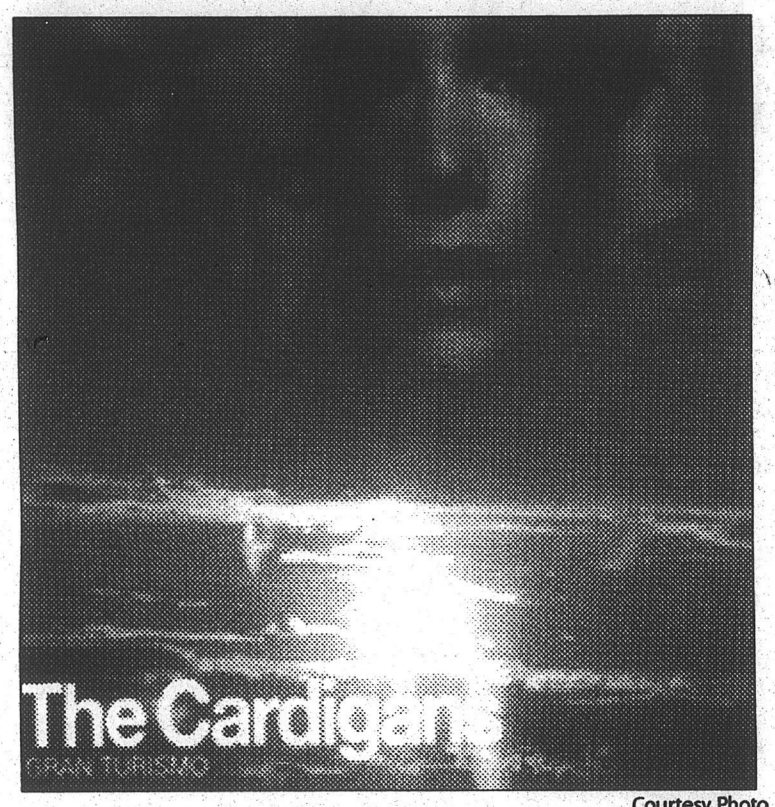
Abridging the historical context, Tenzin moved on to describe the cultural importance of the pieces she would perform. Tibetan dance includes both ritualistic or sacred movement and folk dances. The music includes work songs, pieces from Tibetan operas which feature poems and historical legends and music for special occasions. Four different musical instruments produce these tinkling, exotic melodies: a flute made of bamboo, a fiddle with a cylindrical body, a Chinese instrument that resembles a dulcimer and a wooden lute.

Tibetan dance and music within the country have altered since the occupation, a direct result of Chinese efforts to eradicate the indigenous rituals and traditions. "Their strategy is to assimilate Tibetan people, Tibetan culture," Dolker told her audience. But it is the communities of exiles like those in India, where Dolker was born and grew up, who have preserved the traditional art forms over the past 40 years. Adults instruct the children in such aspects of their heritage, and it was thus through the lessons of parents and friends that Dolker acquired her skill in movement.

(see Dolker, page 10)

Eva Moller

Frank Wildermann '99 and Meg Taintor '01 performed in "Shadowbox," last weekend's production in Hepburn Zoo.



Courtesy Photo

Cardigans slip, shine past gloss, glam

By Sam Folk-Williams
Arts Editor

The Cardigans have released their third major-label album, setting the tone for more and more assimilation to the stripped-bare world of dance-pop; heavy bass, simple chords, grimy sounds, lyrics of tasteless simplicity; a high gloss, super-shine, a smooth plastic feel to the lucid shots of over-exposed enamel finish.

"This is where your sanity gives in / and love begins." Hmph. Synthesized strings play over the still rich guitar. Up and down, back and forth bouncing drums, plod-dingly thin electric piano, pleading, pleading, "I've changed my mind / I take it back." Two parts, one and then the other, over and over again. Something along the lines of mindless, but still enjoyable (enjoyable?).

Lyrics of tasteless simplicity; a high gloss, super shine, a smooth plastic feel to the lucid shots of over-exposed enamel finish

Slow, like a record player that's been unplugged while the needle is still in the grooves, every thump resonates—imagine the discotheque dance floor. Minor key, organ, bass, barely discernible guitar amid synthesizers, synthesizer, "Ease your trouble / we'll pay them double / not to look at you for a while." Just barely touch it, just snap somebody else's fingers and walk on tiptoes across the mirrored surface on the glass tabletop with a silver lining. Real silver, none of that painted garbage.

Some unendurable faint fuzz puff and boom! "This is a start / That I know I'll believe in / So I'm leavin' everything behind." Leavin', y'all get on out now y'hear? Winding down a predicable scale with a strum here or there, outside by the dumpsters where the dishwasher smokes, lamenting his life and his pregnant girlfriend, unable to think about anything but the new sub-woofer he's been eyeing for the trunk of his super-car. Someday, someday soon.

Spying through the tinted glass of the new school, out in the parking lot some day in June when it's hot. Thin, dry heat that sneaks up on you and drains everything out before you realize what's going on. "I wonder what's it like / seeing through your eyes."

It isn't very convincing. All these thoughts about men, about bad men, about the bad men who use and use and use and never give in, give back. Abstract, random noises. Abstract? The word hangs dully from the lips, the big red lips that stop and click click click, like the sound of a metronome ticking back forth atop the piano.

"I'm glad you came around today," she says, replacing something on the dirty table. One of those old green linoleum jobs with a steal frame, steel legs awkwardly high and skinny. I don't think he's listening, but never mind. "I sure need a good companion," she says, digging deeper down among the too-perfect refrains of fake chorus lines. "I'm losing it,"

She continues. Has she been drinking? "But you're still the same." There's no response here, no talking back, no other presence, where's the other presence? "Without you I move at random..." And on and on and on, like someone who doesn't know anything.

Something strange now, one of those heavy machine noises of the modern era gently manipulated into sounding sweet and gentle-like, "I don't need this." Okay, good, "I don't need it," everything makes sense now, coming in clear. "I need more a postcard from where life's a thrill." Hm, sounds like a bad translation, but nothing is translated here. This is ostensible English.

Things pick up a bit for the marketable single "I don't know what you're looking for / but you haven't found it baby that's for sure." Oh, boy, baby (baby!). Slowly accelerating up, and up and up. It goes and goes and goes. "I had a vision I could turn you right" again? "A stupid mission and a lethal fight." There's one way to put it, there's one type of poetic objectivity.

"But I don't think so!" No, "We never chose to part in this stupid play." That's right, that's it, we never chose it, we never chose anything, it was all a plan , a design, a part of some deeper matrix. "I never felt by heart / that I could behave / the way the roles were made." Nor did any of us, we were all type-cast ages before we were even born! It's "Weird how this makes us feel," how does it make us feel? Left out? Raputured? "Insecure"? Perhaps, But now it's over, it's okay, we can breath again. Coming out, we're coming out, we've left it behind and, after all, "That's what friends are for."

Dolker dances through her cultural heritage

(continued from page 9)

"I enjoy talking to people about the situation and sharing the culture," said Dolker, though she admits that "it's strange to be performing by myself," rather than with a group in a ring or circle of dancing people.

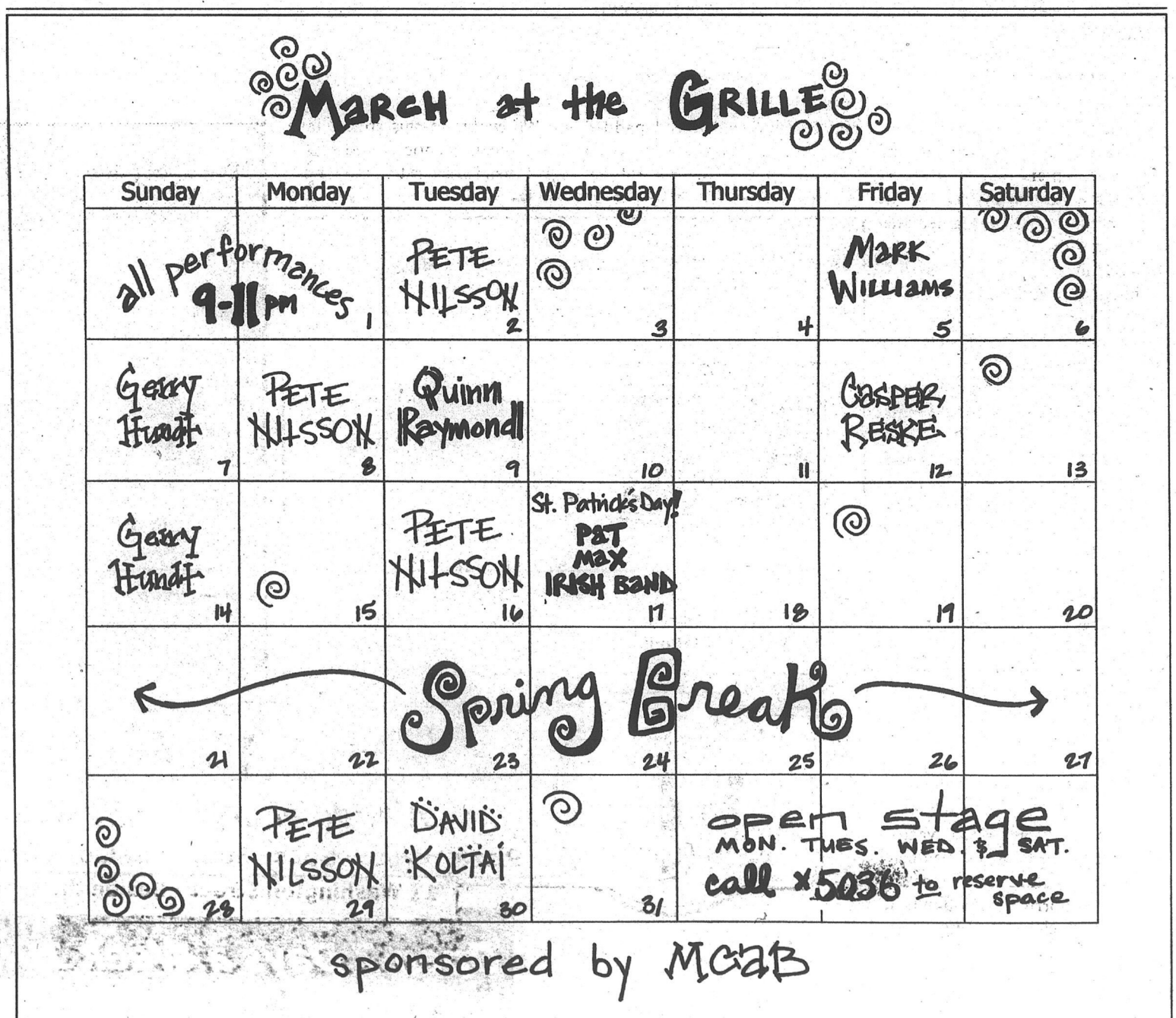
Although she may have felt out of context, Dolker's dances managed to transmit at least a trace of her culture. Dressed in a slim blue brocade gown with white sleaves, Dolker swayed gently from the waist, her feet tracing invisible patterns on the floor and her wrists carving graceful curlicues in the air. Though the speeds of her two pieces differed—the first slow and stately, the second swifter and springier—the basic movements remained the same: intricate footwork and elegant hand motions. Throughout, Dolker wore the same expression of gentle, modest contentment.

Following the performance, Olsen joined Dolker on the dance floor in a conversation about dance and culture. She brought up the traditional Tibetan views of women, which tend toward misogyny. Olsen asked Dolker whether she felt that she was breaking a taboo by performing solo. While avowing her strong connection to her culture, Dolker admitted that she struggles with women's contrasting positions in American and Tibetan values. She commented, however, that the social code against drawing attention to yourself extends to all members of Tibetan society, male and female alike.

Olsen and Dolker also discussed the concept that Tibetan exiles—especially teenagers—have of their native land, which many have never seen. In writing her thesis, Doker discovered that many of them idealize their country. They associate it with "monks, mountains—a mystical Shangri-la." Dolker calls this vision "good in a sense that there is a culture that is very unique from China."

Her personal experience was somewhat different. Growing up in India, Dolker and her friends rebelled against their parents by rejecting authentic Tibetan traditions in favor of Western Hollywood culture. But when she moved to the United States at the age of 15, Dolker came to appreciate her heritage. "Coming here, I learned that is not what I'm for," she said, expressing her wish to "keep my culture and speak out for my people."

Dolker's performance on Friday served to accomplish her desire to spread understanding of Tibet. At the end of her conversation with Olsen and the audience, she invited viewers to remove their shoes and join her on the floor. They formed a circle and imitated Dolker's movements, understanding something of the significance behind them.



Candian Brass

Eva Moller

This is audience participation taken to another level. *For one of the pieces performed by the Canadian Brass quintet, members of the ensemble took their instruments with them as they played from out in the house.*

Shadowy Hepburn plays thrill with talent

(continued from page 9)

One and Only Prayer" fully brought to light his potential as a darker character.

The final piece, "Cold Train," also by Mitton, never quite achieved the full emotional impact provided in the script. The play ends as Alex (Holland) steps onto the tracks—represented by two parellel strips of duct tape, laid in place by Lyle Yetman '00 during the pre-performance music—in front of the approaching train.

Labovitz's '01 costume designs were, for the most part, dead on in communicating a sense of character

Lighting designers Jeff Daigle '01 and David Barreda '00 cleverly used white strip lights onstage to create the effect of the oncoming train's headlight. However, the white light never got quite bright enough nor did the sound of the train rolling along the tracks ever get quite loud enough.

An expression of agony on his face, Holland crumpled into a ball as the lights went out. The noise of the train continued for an instant, then cut out. But there was no final sound or final silence. It seemed as if the play hadn't really ended and thus lost a great deal of the impact intended for the ending.

Yetman's station master used an easy pace and a limp (which was no less brilliant given that it was the result of a real injury) to carry all the atmosphere of a lonely train station and years of solitude.

Holland captured well the strangeness of his character, Alex's, position in being addressed by the peculiar station master. However, at a lot of his more emotional moments, he seemed to be holding back. The time he was the most angry with the station master, it seemed that he was almost afraid of actually hurting Yetman, which made it appear that the character was not truly angry.

From the pre-show music to the bizarre pieces of crooked wood that arched over the audience's heads, the atmosphere of the production was well-crafted.

Frank Labovitz's '01 debut costume designs were, for the most part, dead-on in communicating a sense of character to the audience

It is also wonderful to see so many original plays on the Middlebury stage. "Shadowbox" was affecting, creepy and promising. The evening's main problem was a lack of polish, which might have had something to do with the production's brief five-week rehearsal schedule. But it looks as though Middlebury can anticipate plenty of good playwriting in the future.

Cooper urges students to make changes

(continued from page 9)

grade and working upwards, Ms. Cooper offered a straightforward, humorous and ultimately relieving look at what we are subjected to and what we can do about it. She explained that the root of the problem is that "we are a society that tells little boys and girls, from the time they are young, that what is most valuable about women is how they look, their sexuality."

We can't turn on the television without watching another long-legged 90210 nymphet prance across the screen in a halter top.

Ms. Cooper's own experience with these issues reached its height as an actress in Hollywood, an industry that would not exist if it were not for insecurity. She recalled how agents and producers told her to "lose the baby fat" and wear skimpier clothes to auditions. She developed an ulcer due to not eating and explained that "the more and more I was out there, the more I hated myself." Though we live thousands of miles from Hollywood, we are all victims of its careful manipulation of our insecurities.

Ms. Cooper's dry humor pervaded the presentation, making such topics as nine-year-old girls with nose jobs and 14-year-olds with breast implants a bit more bearable. Flashing a Time magazine cover of Ally McBeal titled "The New Feminism," she remarked, "Being able to wear a really short skirt in the courtroom is not liberation." Neither is the flighty, airheaded, waifish persona Ms. McBeal portrays. And the media wants us to emulate this woman.

So we are told to be thin but fit, tanned but wrinkle-free, have a huge chest and no hips, thighs or butt. And we have to smell good. Such products as FDS, a "vaginal odor" powder, thrive off commercials that feature a woman who smells so horrible she offends an entire nightclub. Shooting a sassy look at the audience, Ms. Cooper remarked, "Now if this woman is in a dance club and the entire room can smell her, she needs a physician."

The presentation reached its dramatic height when Ms. Cooper displayed an actual advertisement for a pair of padded (or perhaps the correct term would be well-endowed?) underpants for men. The entire audience erupted into a fit of laughter, shocked by the notion of such an absurd contraption.

When everyone had calmed down, Ms. Cooper moved on to a model from Victoria's Secret, looking enticing in her red padded Wonderbra. No one even let out a chuckle. So we live in a world that is a bit skewed. We have put up with it for too long. "The next phase of the cultural revolution is at hand," Ms. Cooper explained. And we all have the power, starting with ourselves, to make progress. Cooper urged the audience to "become aware that the negative voice [which encourages low body esteem] is there, and tell it NO." Ms. Cooper also pushed us to call manufacturers, network film studios and go right to the top. Concluding her presentation with a sample of advertisements and magazines that work to empower women, Cooper reflected that "we all live in this space of ignorance and wisdom.

We evolve in this space. Take your old perceptions and disregard them because they no longer apply."

New Music

March 10

Suicaine Gratification ~ Paul Westerberg

Change In My Pocket ~ Anson Funderburgh, et al

Keep It Like A Secret ~ Built To Spill

Here & Now ~ Rod Piazza, Mighty Flyers

Apple Venus Volume One ~ XTC

A Good Day For The Blues ~ Ruth Brown

The Hot Rock ~ Sleater-Kinney

Let The Good Times Roll: The Anthology 1939-1955 ~ Louis Jordan

Biber: Battalia; Locke: The Tempest

Ethnomusicology Vol. 1 ~ Russell Gunn

Simply Baroque ~ Bach, Boccherini / Ma, Koopman, et al

Music Is My Life ~ Diane Schuur

Brahms: Violin Concerto, Sonata no 3 / Vengerov, Barenboim

Body Language ~ Bonny James

Janacek: String Quartets / Guarneri String Quartet (Orchestra)

The Odyssey Of Funk & Popular...1 ~ Lester Bowie Brass Fantasy

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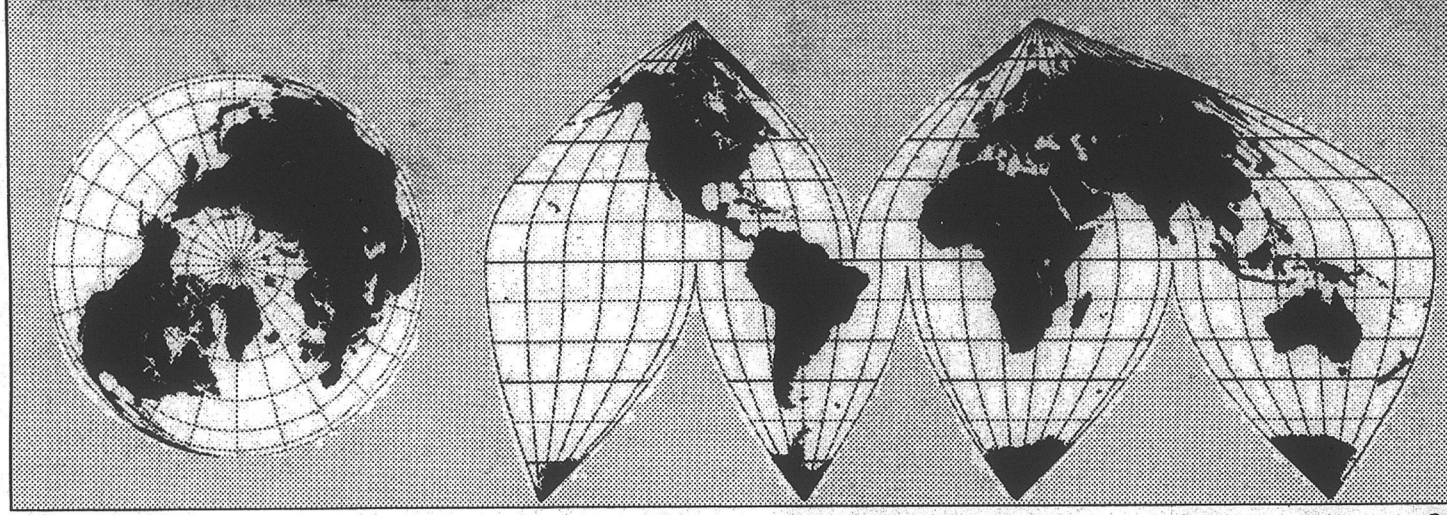


Every year Middlebury students set forth around the globe to take advantage of all that the college's study abroad programs have to offer. From France to Samoa, one can find them everywhere. Here are their interesting stories from around the world...

Foreign cultures persuade many to choose off-campus study

By Anne Pennington
Staff Writer

Fifteen years ago, Middlebury College sent 194 students to 23 different countries so that they could study at 54 programs or universities. In the 1998-1999 school year, Middlebury has sent 329 students to 38 countries to study at 90 different programs or universities. This year, 56.4 percent of the junior class has studied, or is currently studying abroad. These are outstanding figures, and the Study Abroad program itself has been consistently growing. Currently, there is a very strong team directing in the Study Abroad Office, including Michael Katz, Dean of Languages and International Studies; David Macey, Director of Off-Campus Study; and Elizabeth Ross, Associate Director. Stacey Woody and Glyn Trevillion are Coordinators. Chris Beaty recruits non-Middlebury students and deals with the Language Schools. Three new university-based programs have been created in Spain, and a number have been set up in France.

Trevillion said that Middlebury's Study Abroad program has perhaps been so successful because students are required to have five, and sometimes six, semesters of studying the language of the country they will visit. Courses are not only focused on language but on culture as well. Sixty percent of students who travel abroad are language-driven—that is, they go to study in a foreign language. Other people who go abroad travel for the express purpose of studying in another culture. Though many students are language majors or minors, economics majors now also frequently travel to study the system of economy in other English-speaking countries, such as Australia or New Zealand. Students study architecture in France and Italy. The United Kingdom has also become increasingly popular among English speakers. Sixty percent of students studying abroad are women, who also tend to travel to less popular places such as Africa and Asia.

While other, larger schools go trolling for students we go fly-fishing for them.

—Chris Beaty

A majority of students attend a Middlebury School in Germany, Spain, France, Russia or Italy. Students are required to study under a Middlebury program unless there is a pressing academic reason that they should study elsewhere. The application process for a Middlebury program is simple: Students must fill out a two page form, get advisors' signatures, and hand in a piece of graded work written in the language they will be studying. In general, students must have a B average in the language or their applicable major; they must have a B- overall. For a non-Middlebury school, the application process is a bit more difficult, as the student must apply directly to the program, which generally includes more paperwork.

"With those sorts of grades, it's not often that one would be turned down for a Middlebury program unless that program is full," Trevillion said.

And as long as there is a valid academic reason to study with a non-Middlebury program, students generally do not have a problem getting the go-ahead from the Programs Abroad Committee.

Chris Beaty recruits students who do not attend Middlebury College for the five Middlebury programs and for summer school. The number of non-Middlebury students who study abroad with a Middlebury program has increased steadily since Beaty began to work here. There are 58 non-Middlebury students abroad this year; 40 applications have already been received for the coming fall.

Fifteen years ago, Middlebury College sent 194 students to 23 different countries... In the 1998-1999 school year, Middlebury has sent 329 students to 38 countries...

Students apply from colleges such as Brown, Harvard, Yale and Vassar. If the school has its own Study Abroad program it will generally push the students to study with them, but many schools that do not have their own program tend to send applications to Middlebury because of its excellent reputation as a language school.

Beaty made the analogy, "While other, larger schools go trolling for students, we go fly-fishing for them."

As a rule, larger schools do not have the type of requirements that Middlebury has (two to three years of studying a language). Especially the schools "similar to us in philosophy see us as a good option," said Beaty, referring to schools such as Williams, Bates and Colby. Beaty said that, while it is no longer a requirement to attend summer school before going abroad, it is still philosophically pushed. "It really narrows the field," Beaty said. "It's a tremendous commitment."

Beaty also feels that the reason that Middlebury sends so many students abroad each year is that financial aid is always transferred from Middlebury College to the Middlebury program. While some schools "send money anywhere, some see [monetarily endorsing

(see The allure, page 14)

Borch finds a second family in Samoa

By Jason Dungan
Staff Writer

So you're thinking of spending your junior year abroad, but you don't know where to go. Paris sounds interesting, but that's what everyone does, and besides, your French isn't great. What do you do now?

Sarah Borch '99 was confronted with just this question in the fall of her junior year. An English major, Borch was "really tired of Vermont, and I just needed a change," adding, "I wanted to visit somewhere I'd never see otherwise."

So her search began more or less as a spontaneous decision. After some research, Borch settled on Chile, but when the program turned out to be full she chose Samoa, a fairly small group of islands in the South Pacific located between Hawaii and New Zealand. She calls it "the complete opposite of Middlebury in every way."

Upon arrival, Borch realized just how different her experience would be when she got her first taste of the Samoan weather. "It was so hot I couldn't breathe. It felt like I was swallowing wet socks."

After a short ride in a pick-up truck she was deposited with her host family, who were "wonderful," according to Borch.

"They let me sleep in the one bed in the house while the rest of the family slept on the floor. They were so nice."

She says that the warmth she received from her host family was common in Samoa. When Borch and some other students were traveling around the island, they were frequently invited into people's homes; once, Borch and a friend were given a five-hour driving tour of the island by complete strangers. The trip involved not only sightseeing, but visits to several relatives' homes, followed by a huge meal.

They let me sleep in the one bed in the house, while the rest of the family slept on the floor. They were so nice.

—Sarah Borch

Even when the students and Samoans didn't share a language, Borch says that "smiling and nodding" was enough to compensate and that everyone would have a great time together.

Contrary to what one might expect, Borch did not just sit on the beach the entire time. Mornings were spent in Samoan language and culture classes, while the afternoons were often spent visiting people and places around Samoa.

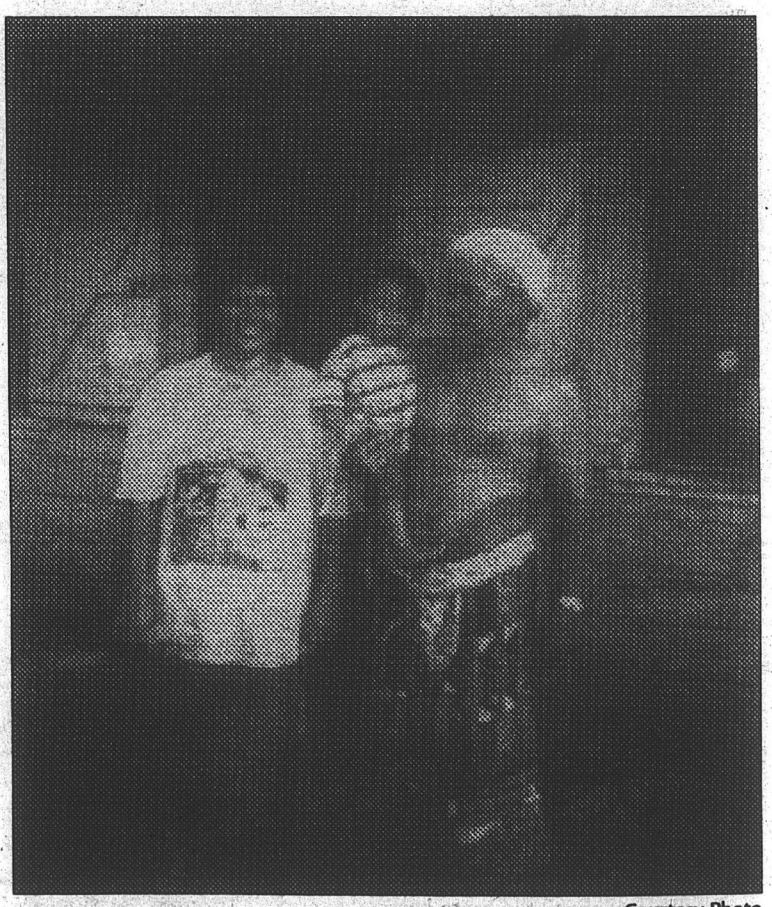
One afternoon was spent at a coconut oil factory, another at the island's famous lava formations. The students also had the opportunity to visit Fiji and some of its archaeological sites, which Borch describes as "totally amazing."

These trips are what allowed Borch to really get to know Samoa, and it's part of what sets her study abroad experience apart from more conventional ones. Where else would one have the opportunity to swim in the ocean one day and go to a pig roast the next?

After seeing her photographs, one wonders why she ever came back to Vermont at all. Samoa seems to have nothing but gorgeous forests and beaches, and people seem to truly enjoy visiting with one another.

Like any study abroad program, the students were encouraged to experience the culture and the way of life of the people they were staying with. There were pig roasts, huge bingo contests, and a great deal of dancing (Borch was adamant that these photos not be reprinted in *The Campus*). However, one thing that definitely separates the Samoan study abroad experience from any other is the

(see Island nation, page 15)

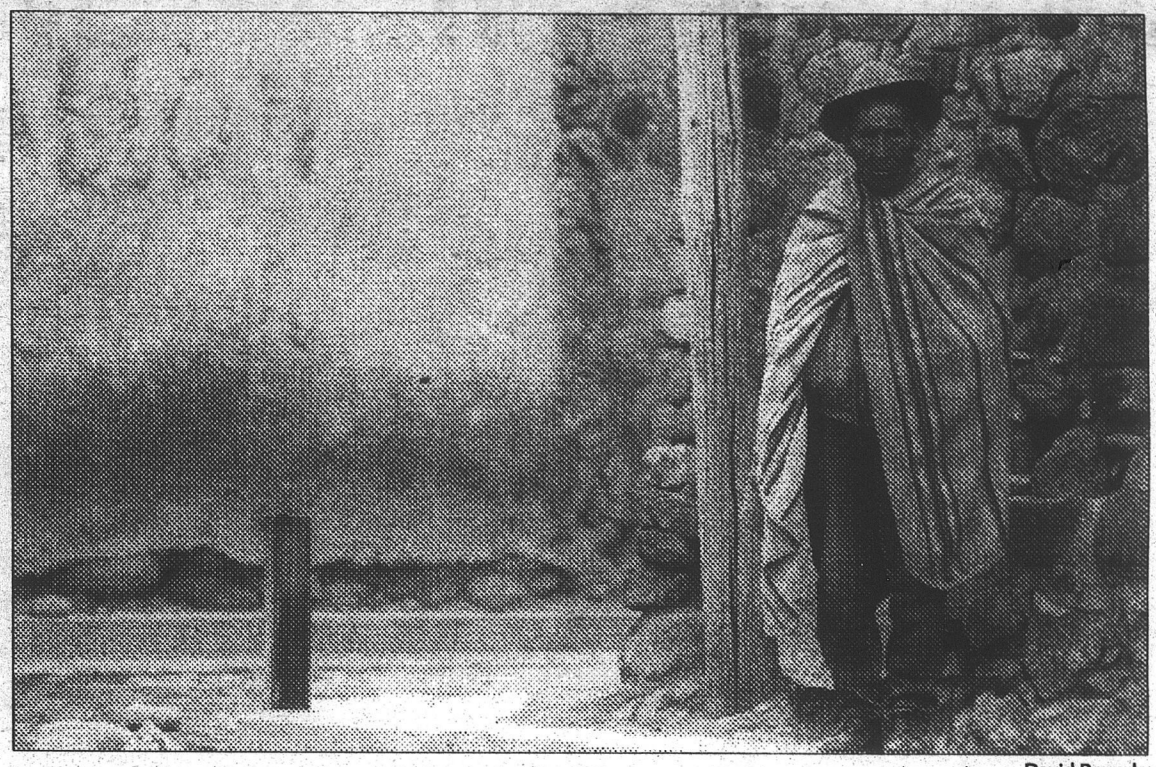


Courtesy Photo

While studying in Samoa, Sarah Borch '99 lived with the family above.

Spanish speakers head south of the border in record numbers

By Sofi Hall
Staff Writer



David Barreda

During J-term David Barreda traveled to Peru to pursue an independent study in black and white photography. In recent years, Middlebury juniors are finding Latin American coutries to be attractive locales for study abroad.

Perhaps students who want to study Spanish abroad both benefit and suffer from the skill of Spain's age old conquistadores. They must make a choice between Spain and Latin America, and then between the different nations of Latin America. In spite of the fact that Middlebury has programs in Spain, the number of students choosing to study abroad in Latin America has been climbing in recent years. For the first time this year, more Middlebury students went abroad to Latin America than to Spain; 35 students went to Spain, while 42 went to Latin America. What draws these students to turn away from the Middlebury program and venture to Latin America?

"Basically it was unknown territory," said Justin Wensek '00, an International Politics and Economics major who spent this fall studying in Buenos Aires, Argentina. "It was a place I didn't know too much about besides what I'd read in text books, and a place that seemed intriguing politically, economically, and socially." Wensek lived in an apartment one street over from "the busiest street in B.A." and took classes at the Universidad del Salvador.

"Everyone is in new territory," said Olivia Bradbury '01, of the semester she will spend backpacking and sea kayaking next fall in Chilean Patagonia on a program in which even the guides never follow the same course. "I wanted to challenge myself physically and emotionally," said Bradbury. "Patagonia is very unexplored."

According to Stacey Woody, coordinator of Off-Campus Study, a recent trend nationally in study abroad is that students are going to more non-traditional sites, such as Latin America and Australia/New Zealand. Glyn Trevillion, co-coordinator of Off-Campus Study, agreed. "I don't think people really looked to Latin America fifteen years ago." Indeed, Middebury's records show that in the 1983-84 school year, three people went abroad to Latin America, versus this year's 42 people. Of course, fifteen years ago civil wars were raging in many parts of Latin America, and the recent wave of democratization has opened more possibilities to students. But it seems that there is more behind this trend than simply political stability.

"I think students are tempted by Latin America, but they feel more comfortable going to Europe because they think it'll be more like the U.S." said Trevillion. "It's not a place they're likely to get to in the future... and a lot of people who go abroad to Latin America wind up getting involved there," said Trevillion. He cited five Middlebury alumni who currently work in Buenos Aires.

"Latin America is several dozen nations, so there is more variety of things students can get out of it," said Jeffrey Cason, Assistant Professor of Political Science and director of Latin American Studies.

Indeed, students going to Latin America can study a wide variety of disciplines and even a variety of languages. Gunnar Carnwath '99 spent last spring in Costa Rica with the Organization for Tropical Studies. "We traveled most of the time to different research stations in Costa Rica," he said. "There was one in the cloud forests, one in the dry tropical rainforests, and one in a 'typical' rainforest." Carnwath did different research projects in the field in English, while studying Spanish on the side.

Sylvia Johnson '00.5 will be going to Fortaleza, Brazil, next fall to the School for International Training's (SIT) Culture, Development and Social Justice program. She does not yet speak Portuguese but said she wanted to learn it there because Middlebury does not offer it. Since she is already fluent in Spanish, Johnson hopes to learn quickly.

"Brazil is a huge power in Latin American Studies," said Johnson, who grew up in different parts of Spanish America. "And I don't know that much about it, even though I do know a lot about the other parts."

Andrea Hattan '00 just returned from a semester in Buenos Aires and has noticed the tendency for Americans to assume that all of Latin America is like Mexico. "I was at Hamlin and they had chips and salsa and people were like, 'You must be really tired of this,'" said Hattan. "I was like, 'No, you don't understand, it's meat and potatoes."

Professor Cason also cited "the college's commitment to Latin American Studies." The college has faculty in several departments, including Sociology/Anthropology, Economics and Spanish, that specialize in Latin America. Middlebury is the only U.S. school of its size that has two Political Science professors who specialize in Latin America: Cason and Mark William. "The college is pointing in that direction, and it drums up interest on the part of students," said Cason. Next year the first class of Latin American studies majors will graduate twenty students.

"Before I came to Middlebury I had no interest in Latin America," said Hattan. "But freshman year I took 103 (Comparative Politics)

(see Latin America, page 15)

Work and play lead to World Cup '98

By Ted Adler
Staff Writer

Almost anyone who spent a semester abroad will tout the benefits of leaving Middlebury for the wide world beyond. The opportunity to learn a foreign language and travel throughout distant lands are remarkable, while the personal growth gained through living and studying in another culture is immeasurable.

I first caught the abroad bug during my "Feb" fall in Grenoble, France. That experience was so rewarding that I decided to go back—this time to Paris. Both semesters were unique experiences; however, there is little doubt about what stands out as the highlight of my calendar year in the land of wine and cheese. "La cerise sur le gateau" (the icing on the cake) was my job working for the World Cup.

Last summer, I spent three weeks as a bilingual host for the Sybase World Cup Hospitality Program. Based in Deauville, the program entertained clients and employees of Sybase (an international software company) who descended upon France from 26 different countries. My only responsibility was to keep the guests entertained, informed, and most importantly, not lost.

"How did you get that job?" remains the most frequently asked question about my experience in Deauville (the French equivalent of the Hamptons). Finding a job abroad is even harder than at home. First, I tried the International Herald Tribune (they wanted a permanent employee), then CitiBank Paris (I was too young) and, finally, EuroDisney (a Mickey Mouse outfit in July is way too hot). When I had just about given up hope, I came across an advertisement in the FUSAC (France/USA Connections). It read: "Looking for bilingual hosts for the World Cup. No experience necessary."

I called Julie King at iLuka Hospitality Co. in London, England. She explained that the program entailed spending three weeks hosting clients during the World Cup. In return I would receive full room and board along with a very nice salary. The application arrived via fax that afternoon.

France, like many other European countries, has an unemployment rate in the double digits. Therefore, along with 800 others, I filled out the application answering questions about everything from my language proficiency and personal skills to my criminal record.

On June 25, along with thirty-five others, I reported to Paris for a four day training session. We learned how to provide "excellent service" which ranged from greeting the guests to setting up a croissant buffet. Armed with walkie-talkies and a cellular phones, the Deauville Team headed to the Hotel Royale (a fully appropriate name) for the next two and a half weeks.

The Deauville Team consisted of some of the most interesting people I met abroad. It included Karen, a combination of my boss and mother, and Julie, a former wind surfing instructor, both of whom were British. Paola, a French/Swedish woman with two children, worked as our bus host. Finally, there was Elodie, my adorable desk host partner. Elodie taught me every French slang word not in the book and teased me endlessly about my accent.

During my time in Deauville, we hosted four different waves of Sybase clients and employees. Most participants came for a four-day period. Arrival day included greeting and orientation, which was followed by tour/beach day, during which the guests enjoyed the beautiful Normandy region. On game day our visitors left for the Stade de France in Paris and finally departure day. On average, I worked 14 hours a day (except on game day which required "Late Night Hospitality" into the wee hours of the morning).

Time flies when you are having fun (or not sleeping very much). Thus, on July 12, I left Deauville with a bus load of drunk Sybase guests headed for the World Cup finals in Paris. Even though I never followed professional football (please, don't call it "soccer"), I had serious case of Coupe du Monde fever at that point. Watching France, my second homeland, ascend to the finals had been thrilling: A quarter-final victory over Italy on penalty kicks lead to a defeat of Croatia in the semis. That day the French would face the mighty Brazilians in the crème de la crème of sporting events.

Courtesy Photo

Ted Adler '99.5 at the Stade de France on the day of the World Cup finals.

In case you hibernated last summer, or lived in the United States, you might not know that the French won the World Cup. When Emmanuel Petit scored the decisive third goal, the stadium exploded. Mayhem erupted in Paris, with more people descending on the Champs Elysées than on V-E Day 1945. The father of my host family, along with many of his countrymen, broke the horn on his car. France, united across racial, class and regional divisions, celebrated their incredible victory. As one reporter wrote, "the entire country woke the next morning with a hangover."

Currently I am faced with finding a job for next summer. Needless to say, it will be tough to find an encore to the World Cup. I developed wonderful friendships, experienced a once-in-a-lifetime event and even picked up some cool paraphernalia. If nothing interesting comes my way, I could always claim unemployment benefits until the Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Hectic schedules preclude many from leaving campus

By Katherine Clark
Staff Writer

In the past three years 305, 355 and 329 juniors have chosen to study in a foreign country. That's roughly 65 percent of the class. But what about the other 35 percent? Why don't they choose to take advantage of this opportunity?

Students remain on campus their junior year for numerous reasons. Requirements for completing their major, athletics, political activities and many other factors weigh into the decision.

Kirk German '00.5, a Theater Lit. major, explained that "basically, I felt like there was a lot I didn't want to miss out on [here]... There were so many classes and [activities] that I hadn't explored in my first one and one-half years here [that] I didn't want to miss... I love to travel...,[but] I just thought I would [take advantage] of the four years that I have here while I could."

I think for a lot of people, studying abroad is the...ideal thing..., but there is so much you can learn on campus... There is definitely something special about making the most of your time here.

—Kirk German '00.5

"I wanted to feel like...I was contributing to the college in some vital way," continued German. "I wanted to [expand upon] my experiences here...by becoming a J.C." German had never lived on a freshmen hall before because he is a Feb, and therefore he does not regret the decision to find out what living in Battell feels like.

Mark Williams '00 had an entirely different reason for remaining on campus for his junior year. Williams is an accomplished member of the Middlebury Swim Team and "chose to stay because [he] didn't want to miss the season."

There were several other catalysts which spurred Williams' decision. Williams is now a Music major. However, he did not "take his first music class until first semester, sophomore year." Completing his major would have been difficult had he chosen to study abroad.

In addition, many of Williams' friends told him "that it was a good experience, but [they were] so ready to come back after a month." When "they came back they felt out of the loop." "I wouldn't want to come back and feel like I had missed everything."

Williams laughed, a bit apologetically, when he explained that he "is just not a huge fan of foreign countries...[and] wouldn't be too crazy about going [away] for an entire three months."

Williams and "some of his closest friends [do] want to go to Europe during the summer after graduation." But, for some, studying abroad is just not the most attractive option.

When Jill Bibro '00 matriculated in the fall of 1996, she felt that she "might [go abroad] because so many people here do..." However, when Bibro decided upon a major of Sociology with an Elementary Education minor she "knew [she] was taking on...an entirely different experience...with student teaching." She "didn't feel the urge...and never really questioned" the fact that she wasn't going to be able to study abroad, "for logistical reasons."

After graduation, Bibro is hoping to become a part of 'Teach for America,' an intensive two-year teacher training program which matches young teachers with underserved rural and inner-city areas. Bibro is also entertaining the idea of possibly becoming involved with the Peace Corps. Either way, she is planning on doing something interesting after graduation, and, so, she does not have any regrets about her decision.

Senior Cam Brown, like Williams, was also late in deciding upon music and "switched [her] major at the end of [her] sophomore year." Unlike Williams, Brown "want[ed] to go abroad to live in another culture." She could have gone to Paris, but she really wanted to be a JC and felt that it would be the "ultimate kick in the head to her freshmen" were she to take off half-way through the year.

Alexander Zwerdling '00 and Brown shared the worry that by leaving their junior year, they would have trouble completing the requirements for their majors in "the 'proper' order" without it being a real hassle.

It really "depends on your major," Zwerdling explained, but "I just felt like it would be a more cohesive experience to remain on campus."

Zwerdling, an active member in SGA until the beginning of this year, recently co-founded the Middlebury College Progressives who are currently lobbying the administration.

He explained that he is "always going to be able to find things that [he] enjoys doing here." Although definitely interested in travel, Zwerdling sees "other opportunities...in [his] future" for going abroad because he isn't planning "to go to graduate school or jump into his career" immediately after he graduates.

When asked about the role that family and faculty played in the decision most replied that they basically did their "own thing." Parents seem to be more interested in supporting their kids in their decision than influencing them one way or another.

Bibro's advisor "knew [that Bibro] knew what [she] wanted, and so he wasn't going to try and push [her] one way or another."

In addition, Bibro explained that her "parents...always want to make sure that she has a lot of knowledge of [her] options, but once [she has] made up [her] mind...they support [her]."

Students remain on campus their junior year for numerous reasons. Requirements for completing their major, athletics, political activities and many other factors weigh into the decison.

Williams never even talked about the decision with his parents. While Zwerdling said that his parents "would really [have] missed him..." but that "they would have been supportive no matter what."

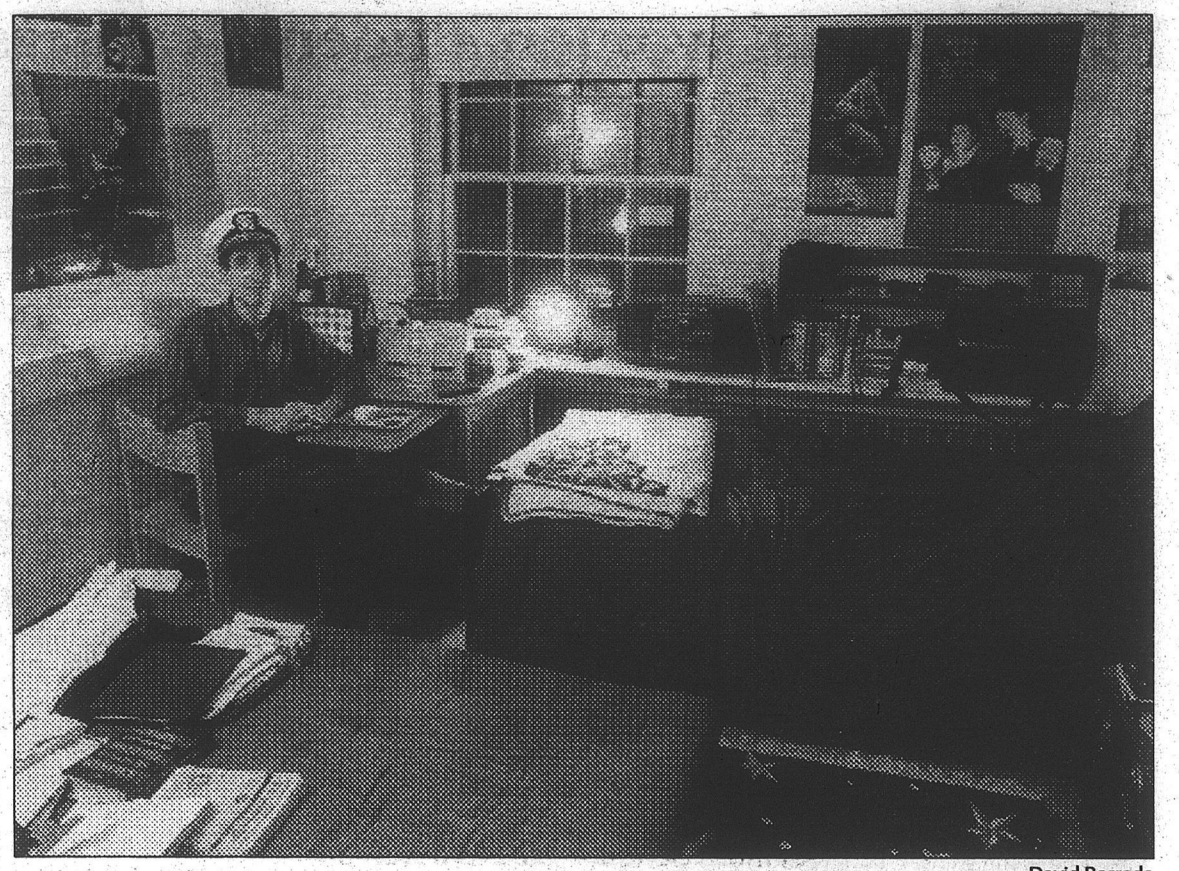
Friendship played a much more integral role. Williams was dissuaded by comments from many of his friends about the experience of returning and feeling "out of the loop."

Conversely, Zwerdling, by remaining on campus while several of his best friends left for a semester or the year, "got to know [the] people [he had] only known on the periphery before." Williams did find that because a lot of his good friends did go abroad that he became friends with some new people, but the experience did not appear as positive for him.

Regrets were few if not non-existent. German "just felt like it was the right decision, ultimately" even if he is a little sad that he isn't going to "Italy or France or England or Australia" as he thought he would when he matriculated.

Brown also expected to take advantage of Middlebury's extensive study abroad program. "So much emphasis is put upon it" that you just "expect to go." However, Zwerdling summed up the general sentiment precisely when he said, "My heart wasn't really in it... I felt there was so much to do here."

German agreed, "I think for a lot of people, studying abroad is the...ideal thing..., but there is so much you can learn on campus... There's definitely something special about making the most of your time, here."



David Barreda

Kirk German '00.5 is a JC in Battell second north. Although many of his friends chose to spend their junior terms abroad, Kirk has decided to stay on campus for a number of academic and social reasons.

The allure of off-campus study draws many abroad

(continued from page 12)

studying abroad] as a loss of tuition," said Beaty. "You have to learn the philosophy of each campus individually."

Beaty attends Study Abroad Fairs at other schools, speaks in classes, gives informational meetings and educates the contact people of non-Middlebury students.

Aleks Wolski '00 studied abroad in Mainz, Germany, this fall at Johannes-Gutenberg-Universitat. His original plan was to study for a semester in Russia and another semester in Germany, but when he discovered that the two programs overlapped, he changed his plans and decided to study in Germany for the entire year.

After summer school, however, he decided to travel for one semester only in order to be in Middlebury for the spring. Because he double majors in Economics and German, he felt that this was the best course of action because he could take the classes that best suited his academic program. Instead of running into many difficulties in these plan changes, Wolski recalled that the Study Abroad Office made it very easy for him to change travel plans. Shortening his trip from a year to a semester was, for Wolski, simply "a matter of one phone call."

Wolski said that one of the most important ways that he prepared to study in Germany was attending the meetings organized by the German department. He also spoke with students and faculty who had already traveled to Germany. He received tips on what to do, what not to do, where to purchase certain things, places to go, adjustments he would have to make, and various other advice and information. Wolski recalled that he received some "very useful hints that made the adjustment process easier."

Wolski has lived in Europe much of his life, being from Poland and also having lived in England and Iraq, among other places. Wolski reflected that the pace in Germany is much slower than the pace here. The education is much more self-organized, requiring a lot of self-discipline and motivation. Instead of having homework every night, Wolski had larger papers which were due.

Wolski attended a school with 30,000 people in a city with a population of 300,000. His schedule consisted of four different classes, one with other Middlebury students. Because the school was so large, it was more difficult to meet people. However, Wolski remembers his experience very positively.

Though he had to make a larger effort to make friends, he succeeded and found a group of people with whom he spent a lot of time. These friends also helped him with papers and showed him around the city.

Sarah Pearsall '99 attended the Institute International in Madrid, Spain for her entire junior year. Pearsall sees the study abroad program as a "movement towards independence." This movement included finding a place to live.

"You have to make it happen yourself; you need to have the desire," she explained.

Pearsall felt that she had an easier adjustment than a lot of people, because she had a cousin who had gone to Madrid and was immediately given a place to live. Pearsall felt the issue of race strongly, also; she said that it was more difficult for people of color to be accepted by the people of Madrid.

Though Pearsall felt extremely independent, she did feel that the Study Abroad Office was excellent with the lists of necessities given out before the students left. Pearsall also attended summer school and was able to speak with the director of the program while there.

She remembers one meeting in which she had the opportunity to talk to other students who had gone abroad. Pearsall, like Wolski, found speaking with other students to be one of the most useful parts of her preparation.

Once she was in Spain, Pearsall had to adjust to doing things on her own. "You have to roll with the punches," she said. Through it all, Pearsall remembers her experience as extremely positive and as a time of growth.

International women students contrast Middlebury with home

By Sara Schuman
Staff Writer

Wambugha Kubo '02, from Nairobi, Kenya, survived the bombing of the American Embassy next to her school in Nairobi in August of 1998, where 254 people died including her classmates and teacher.

She survived because she was late for school that day. However, describing her experience of first arriving in Middlebury as a freshman this fall, Kubo described herself as being "shell-shocked."

While many students go abroad to learn about the other cultures of the world, Middlebury attracts many international students, like Kubo, to its campus to experience American culture first hand.

Kubo, along with Vesna Dukic '99 of Croatia and Sreemati Mitter '99 of Calcutta, India, shared stories and insights into how each of their lives at home compares to life in the United States with a forum of 50 Middlebury women organized by the Middlebury Feminist Action Movement (FAM) and coordinated by Kate Landis '99.

I feel more dehumanized as a woman here than in Kenya, because here there are women's bodies all over the media.

—Wambugha Kubo '02

After a feast of food and conversation at Dolci, a discussion was held in honor of International Women's Day in the salon of the Chateau.

Since 1911, this holiday has been commemorated annually by the United Nations and is celebrated on March 8, "when women on all continents, often divided by national borders and by ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate their day."

Instead of immediately returning to their homes, Dukic and Mitter, both seniors, will be working in New York City after graduation because as Dukic said, "It would be really hard for me to go back to Croatia now. There's no such thing as liberal arts there. They'd think I was talking about art, like painting!"

Dukic explained that she would return to Croatia "only after I've gained the experience here so that I can make a difference there. If I go back now no one will take me seriously." For this reason, Dukic said, "Sometimes I feel guilty telling my friends at home what life is like here."

For Mitter, returning to India would be equally as challenging because, "the longer I stay in America," Mitter explains, "the harder it is going back. If I go home to India, what would I do? I'd be overqualified for any job. And if I'm not married by 25 or 26, I'd get a bad name. My cousin is 29, unmarried and the scandal of the family."

Mitter explains that "it's with the simple things you fall in love with America, like ATM machines. You really do!"

Another advantage for Mitter of being in America, a place where thinness revered, is, as she explains, "because of my slim figure, my grandmother was always trying to get me to eat more food because being nice and rounded in India is a good thing. But being slim is good in the US!"

However, this value that America puts on physical appearances led Kubo to remark, "I feel more dehumanized as a woman here than in Kenya, because here there are women's bodies all over the media."

Kubo explains that while growing up, "sometimes I just didn't want to be a woman. I used to walk around saying 'I am a white man!' If you're white, heterosexual and Anglo-Saxon, you're on top of the world." Kubo explained that women in Kenya are treated like "donkeys, but good donkeys."

Kubo shared with the group how her grandmother may be "chauvinistic," promoting the commonly accepted belief that a woman's place is in the home like most women in Kenya, but at the same time she is a strong, fiery and powerful woman.

In Kenya, "the women have been oppressed, but there's nothing passive about them!" Kubo exclaims.

Dukic, who experienced the fall of communism in Croatia, has watched her country change in many ways, including the influx of American ideas and standards of beauty.

"While Croatia may have accepted the external qualities of the beauty ideal for women that are cherished in the West," Dukic recalls, "they still haven't accepted the internal qualities of independence that women in the West have achieved."

Under communist rule, Dukic explains, "the interesting phenomenon was that we were all middle class, and we were all equal. Women didn't stay at home. They were expected to work too. This forced women to be equal with men." But after the fall of communism, women took this opportunity to distinguish themselves from men, by falling into the traditionally accepted feminine role.

However, Dukic notes that there are some advantages to dating in Croatia because as she said, "At Middlebury, when guys and girls date, they want to be so equal it's just not fun anymore! At home, we're very much treated like women. They will try to be perfect gentleman for us. Well, that is at first, of course..."

All three women noted the importance of marriage for women in their countries.

Kubo shared a joke they tell in Kenya of a girl "who wants to go to college in America, but her father wants her to get married since he is being offered a dowry of 20 cows for her hand.

However, he is informed that if she goes to college, than her dowry will be worth more, 60 cows! Well, for 60 cows her father's sure to send her off to get an education."

Mitter, an Economics major, also expressed the high value of a woman's dowry in India when she said with amusement, "In India there is a marriage market. I'd like to do economic research on this. It should be my thesis!"

A Middlebury education has been a wise financial investment for Kubo, Dukic and Mitter, since by graduation, they will all have gained a wealth of knowledge and, in addition, will be worth at least 60 cows in dowry.

Latin America offers an escape from the norm

(continued from page 13)

with Cason with a Latin American focus, and from there I got on a development track," said Hattan.

"My academic interests were clearly served by going to Latin America," she said. "I was frustrated because I felt like students were being pushed in the direction of Spain."

Hattan felt lost trying to find a program in Latin America; she said her search was "haphazard." She was only able to find the program she went on, Butler University's Argentine Universities Program, because Professor Cason knows the people who run it in Argentina.

"Thank goodness it worked out," said Hattan. "I wouldn't trade my experience for anything."

Another reason that students have gone to Latin America in recent years has been to get away from the Middlebury crowd. Until this year, the only Spain program that students were officially allowed to enroll in was the Middlebury School in Madrid, which is a school strictly for American students on their year abroad.

"For years, the main concern with the program was that if you're in class with American students, you don't have the opportunity to interact on an everyday basis with Spanish students," said Shona Malkar with the Office of Off-Campus study. This year Middlebury has opened three programs in Spain which offer direct matriculation into the Spanish university system: Carlos III in Getafe, La Universidad SEK in Segovia, and La Universidad de La Rioja in Logroño. The college expects these programs to attract more students in the future, including students from outside Middlebury.

For those Spanish-speakers who can't decide between Spain and Latin American, there is always the option that Amy Wales '01 has chosen: She applied to both. She applied to Carlos III in Spain for fall and SIT's spring program in Managua, Nicaragua, in which she will be enrolled in the Central American University studying social revolution and political change.

"I think that Latin America and Spain are very much related to each other in terms of political, economic and social histories, and it's important not to separate the two even though they're incredibly different," said Wales. "For me to get a good balance of the two seemed to be to my academic, as well as personal, benefit."

Island nation captures Borch's heart

(continued from page 12)

fa'afafine, a performance group consisting of transvestites and transsexuals who performed Whitney Houston and Tina Turner impersonations.

It was experiences like that which made her semester such a memorable one. But while she enjoys speaking about her time in Samoa, Borch is somewhat concerned that her experiences there could possibly be trivialized by an article like this.

It's easy to see from the photos of her hosts that she really was a part of their family. And it's understandable that after becoming very close to these people that she would be wary of a "Midd kid goes to live with quaint native people and learns about life" kind of story.

Unlike many other study abroad programs, where people often get apartments or share rooms with other Middlebury students, Samoa's involves truly living with one's host family. Borch went to church with them every Sunday and was involved with many parts of day to day life. And when it was time for her to go, her host mother presented her with several hand-made dresses as going-away presents.

Living in Samoa for the semester gave Borch the opportunity to become part of another family, and it is this part of her experience which she is wary of cheapening.

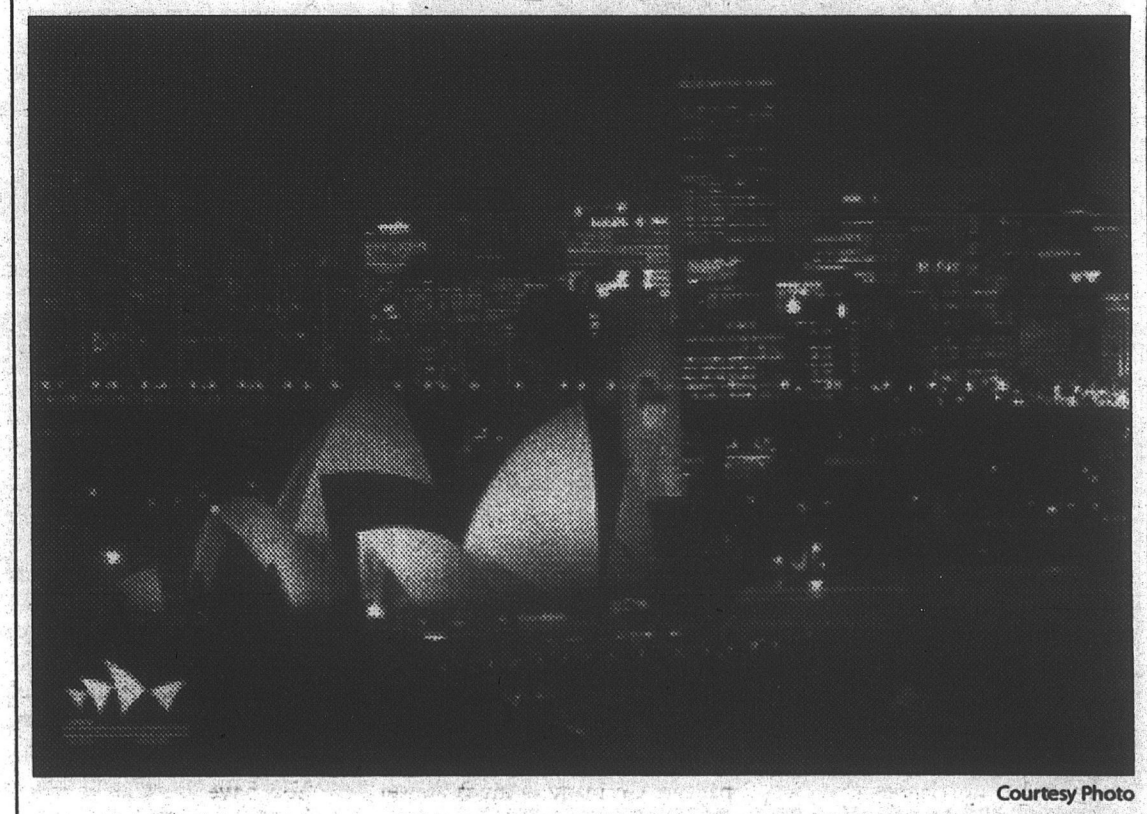
Overall, Borch found her experience in Samoa to be "great," although by the end, she was happy to come back to Middlebury. Friends and professors were missed, and Borch was eager to complete her degree. Looking forward now to graduation ("I've had enough"), Borch plans to spend some time in Santa Fe with friend Nicole Lanthier '99 upon receiving her diploma.

Her semester abroad may have been unconventional, and she may not have learned anything about Renaissance art, but Borch seems to have experienced something else, something which probably cannot be simply summed up as a "study abroad experience."

In any case, it would be a disservice to try to sum it up in a *Campus* article. Borch says her semester in Samoa was among her favorite times at Middlebury, and the experience of going away to somewhere so completely different was a welcome break from regular college life.

Some might believe that Borch wasted an opportunity to go to a great center of world culture, or to become fluent in a foreign language, but Borch has some great stories from her time in Samoa, and it's doubtful that she regrets her choice for a minute.

G'day Mate!



Courtesy Photo

In recent years, *Australia has become an increasingly popular destination for Middlebury students looking for a non-language intensive study abroad experience.*

Festival shares diverse cultures with children

By Raegan Randolph
Features Editor

Last Thursday, March 4, in honor of Vermont Higher Education Day, Middlebury College hosted a cultural festival for approximately 60 local elementary school students in McCullough Hall.

Sponsored by the college's public affairs office and facilitated in collaboration with Middlebury students, "InternationalFest!" gave fifth and sixth-graders from Mary Hogan School the opportunity to learn about international geography, cultures and languages through presentations and performances by members of the college's culturally diverse student body.

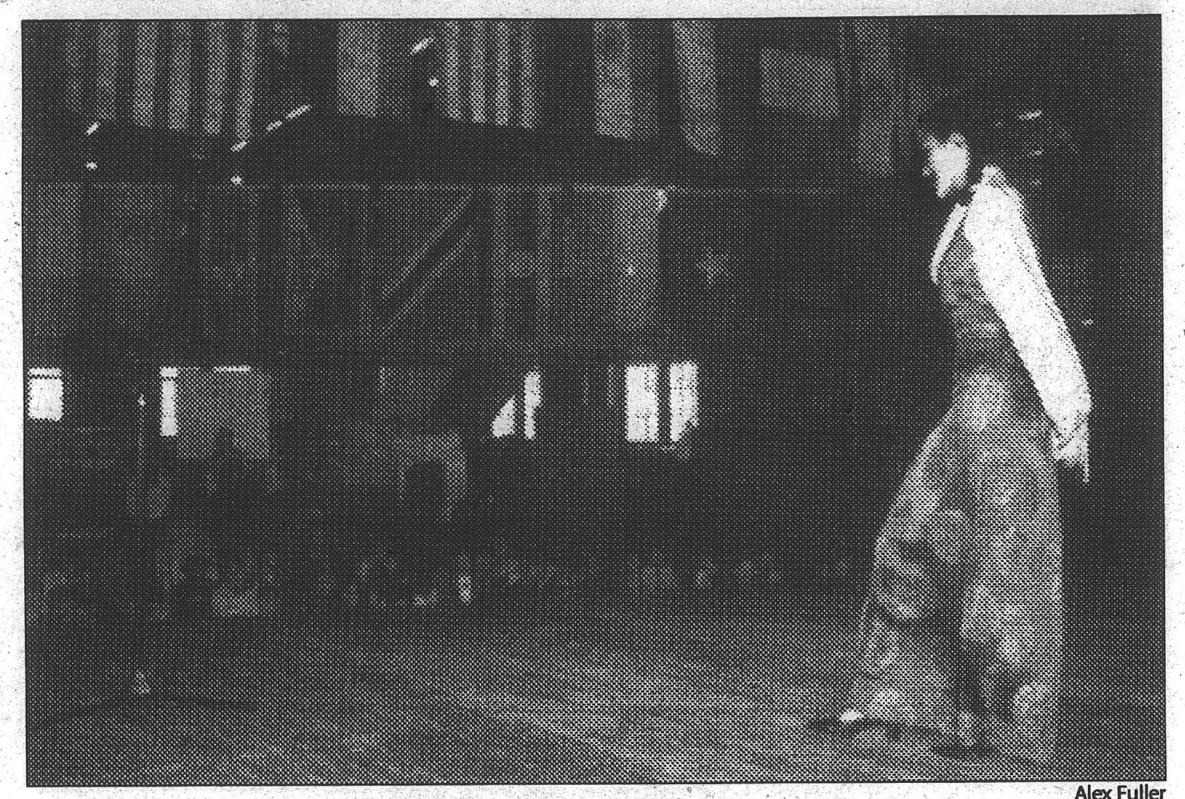
The event was Middlebury's response to a proclamation issued in February by Vermont Governor Howard Dean announcing the Vermont Higher Education Council's decision to designate March fourth Vermont Higher Education Day. The governor invited all colleges within the state to honor this day.

Tucky Ceballos, Assistant to the Director of Public Affairs at the college and Project Coordinator for InternationalFest!, explained that she and Director of Public Affairs Phil Benoit consulted several members of the Middlebury College community as well as Holly McKenzie, a Mary Hogan teacher, in order to organize Middlebury's program. She was especially grateful for the efforts made by the student presenters.

"The College students were wonderfully skillful in their presentations and also in fostering a warm and friendly personal interaction within the younger students," said Ceballos.

The Mary Hogan students spent the majority of their time at InternationalFest! divided into small groups that rotated among six learning stations throughout the hall. Some of these stations, for example, consisted of language instruction, demonstration of cultural dances and costumes, and discussion of the interplay between a region's environment and its economics.

Cindy Withington '00, who studied abroad last fall in the Brazilian Amazon, used her own photos and artifacts to talk about Amazon ecology and the region's native peoples. "Their [the student's] eyes were really opened to different parts of the world," said Withington about the effect of the event.



Alex Fuller

Mary Hogan School students enjoy the final presentation of InternationalFest!, featuring ethnic songs and dances.

At another station, Mas Ismail '01 displayed traditional Malay clothing and explained the art form of batik used to decorate fabrics.

"It was a more interactive sort of station," said Ismail, who allowed the students to try on the batik sarongs she had on display. "They [the Mary Hogan students] went crazy when I invited them to experiment with the sarongs."

Another station consisted of a chat group session in which the students were encouraged to ask questions about the specific cultures represented by the station's leaders. International students from Ghana, Fafa Paku '02 and Kwame Kuadey '01, used this time to demonstrate traditional Ghanaian formal wear and answer questions about their native country.

"Quite a few of them [the students] had studied Ghana in history class," said Paku. "I thought it [InternationalFest!] was a good way for the kids... to get to know the places they know nothing about and have misconceptions about."

Elisabeth Gsell, an exchange student from Germany, also aimed to abolish misconceptions about foreign countries in her dialogue with the students about European stereotypes.

After visiting each station, the small groups of students, teachers and chaperoning parents convened to watch the finale performance, a collection of singing and dancing presentations. Some of the acts included a Tibetan dance performed Tenzin Dolker '99, two Ukrainian folk songs sung by Olga Lisovskaya '99 and two Mexican folk dances performed by Claudia Moreno '02. "Even the teachers learned something," said Moreno. She demonstrated the regional differences between the folk dances of Veracruz and Jalisco.

As a conjunct effort with the state government, Middlebury's participation in Vermont Higher Educa-

(see Festival, page 19)

Ski-a-thon benefits Special Olympics

By Laurie Manus
Associate Editor

Friday was a proud day for the members of the Student Government Association's Finance Committee. They raised approximately $10,000 for the Vermont Special Olympics by skiing over 1,000,000 vertical feet at Stowe Mountain this March 5.

The committee will present the sum to Marty Berda, Executive Director of the Vermont Special Olympics, at the SGA meeting on April 11.

A total of 12 Middlebury College students and alumni participated in the charity ski event. Each individual raised money by locating sponsors who wanted to donate money for the Vermont Special Olympics on the basis of the number of runs completed or the number of vertical feet skied in one day.

Finance Committee alumni, Scott Paul '96, Eric Whaley '96 and Dan Bryan '98, returned to ski the event with current Finance Committee members David Paul '00, Bob Bryan '00, C.J. Diamond '00 and Ben Schlechter '99. The committee also recruited skiers Tim Boarini '00, Stephanie Crumb '00 and Justin Bussen '02.

Ashley Twyon '99 and Kaia Laursen '02 managed the event from the bottom of the slope by tallying the number of runs and vertical feet skied throughout the day.

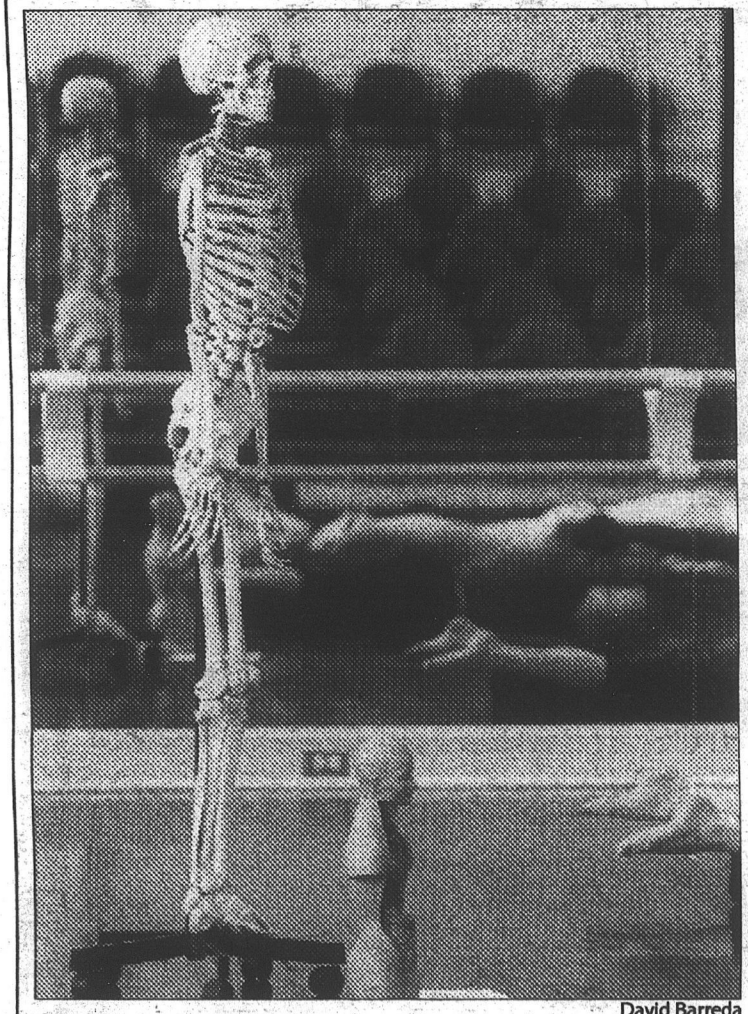
Scott Paul first organized this charity event three years ago when the committee collected just over $2,000 for the 1996 Vermont Special Olympics from sponsors solely located on campus. This year the Finance Committee aimed to raise more money with the help of individual sponsors at Scott Paul's, Eric Whaley's and Dan Bryan's respective places of business— Bear Stearns; Goldman Sachs and CIBC Oppenheimer.

This year David Paul, Scott's brother, decided to revive the event. David Paul hopes that it will become an annual tradition for the Finance Committee. David aimed to break the 1996 record of 940,000 vertical feet and to reach the committee's high goal of 1,000,000 vertical feet.

The skiers were determined to meet the challenge because many of the larger corporate sponsors promised "all or nothing" donations for reaching the 1,000,000 vertical feet marker. Other sponsors promised, for example, to donate a flat sum of $100 and to give $100 more for every ten thousand feet over the 1996 record.

(see Ski-a-thon, page 19)

Yoga, getting to the very backbone of the self



David Barreda

Relaxation and a centering of body energy *are what Dance Professor Andrea Olsen teaches in her Tuesday yoga class, which is open to everyone from the college community and the larger community.*

Martini returns to school after more than 30 years

By Megan Leopold
Staff Writer

Imagine going back to school after more than thirty years.

John Martini did just that when he took Italian classes at Middlebury during the past fall and winter terms. Martini, who is a landscaper for the college and holds a Master of Arts in both history and education, was unable to work at this time due to problems with the nerves in his arms. As part of the employee's benefits offered by the college, Martini had the option to take classes.

Some people thought i was crazy to go back to school after all those years, but I am a very eclectic person, and I think of myself as a lifetime learner.

—John Martini

Martini is an orphan with Italian roots. He was not raised as Italian and wanted to take courses at Middlebury to explore the culture.

"I wanted to find out what it is to be Italian," said Martini.

Martini loves working with students. He taught U.S. history in Brandon, Vermont, for many years, but despite this experience Martini was nervous about returning to the classroom as a student.

"My biggest fear was that I wasn't going to be smart enough, and I went in with trepidation because here I was going to school with some of the best and smartest kids in the U.S.," said Martini.

Martini overcame his fears and jumped headfirst into his class. Although learning a new language was difficult for him, he found he had all the support that he needed.

"The Italian department was wonderful. They have super support systems, and they even made grammar and vocabulary seem fun," said Martini. He also found the students encouraging as well.

Italian Professor Patricia Zupan claims that having adult learners in the classroom is beneficial to students.

"Martini contributed a great deal to the class," said Zupan. "Adult learners help the students understand how hard they need to work, and they serve as a point of reference for the formal form of

(see Martini, page 18)

Tour guides tackle challenges from parents and prospectives

By Eniko Simon
Staff Writer

You see them all over campus. They are often loud and energetic, and what characterizes them most is the way they walk so artfully backwards. Middlebury College tour guides act as a vital threshold for prospective students to Middlebury, playing an important hand in their first vulnerable impression of the school.

In that endless college search process, potential undergraduate students are bombarded with statistical data about various schools. However, even a newly enrolled first-year student knows that there is much more to Middlebury than its numbers and pie charts. For visitors, tour guides become a much needed personal connection to Middlebury. Offering the first real taste of Middlebury to prospectives and their parents, tour guides provide information beyond what the colorful and idealistic brochures contain.

Middlebury comes to life and fleshes out through its tours. "All the liberal arts schools sound the same on paper," said Lisa Engelstein '01, who has been a tour guide for a year. "I enjoy showing what Middlebury is actually like."

"The college spends over $100,000 every year on promotion," said tour guide Dan Rosenfeld '99. "But it is the tour guides that people remember the most, and they don't cost anything," Rosenfeld continued, noting the irony behind the vast sums invested on college promotion.

"It is a great feeling to give an accurate picture of Midd," said John Flemming '99, who has been enthusiastically leading tours since his first year at Middlebury. "As a tour guide you can make such an impact on someone to make them want to come to Middlebury," he added. Like many of his fellow tour guides, Flemming has come to love Middlebury more and more through leading tours. "I love to share my feelings with others," said Flemming.

Flemming demonstrates the authenticity of this sentiment with the number of currently enrolled students who first met him as their tour guide. "I was helping out with first-year orientation... when a girl approached me and asked, 'So how was Germany?'" Flemming proceeded to explain. "Only later did I realize that I had been her tour guide. She had remembered me... [Later] I was telling this exact story on a tour... when all of a sudden a guy just randomly stopped with his bike and said, 'actually, you were my tour guide too.'"

"I know at least three people on campus whom I gave a tour to," said Flemming. "That's pretty cool because their first impression of Midd came from me."

But what do tour guides say about Middlebury, particularly concerning the campus' sensitive issues that require tact? One woman asked Rosenfeld about the use of drugs on campus. Initially speechless, while desperately probing his mind for the appropriate response, Rosenfeld answered diplomatically that "marijuana is the number one cash crop in Vermont."

Kristen Sylva '01 did not need to find words. She was taking a group towards Hepburn, which is not her usual route, only to discover that a crowd of students was smoking in front of the dorm. On this particular tour, Sylva was instructed to take the group into Hepburn and show them a room. After she knocked on a random door, a cloud of cigarette smoke poured out of the room, which was scattered with dirty ashtrays. "Fortunately, the people standing in the door thought it was the funniest thing," said Sylva. "I was very lucky because I could have had a group of very conservative people." Instead, the laughter of the visitors eased Sylva's embarrassment.

Laura Ford
John Flemming '99 enthusiastically leads another tour of prospectives.

For the guides, interaction with the given group is essential to the success of the tour. Michelle Ruth '00 has "a good time when people are responsive and animated." In one of her best tours, not only did the visitors prove to be involved, but they physically showed their enthusiasm as well. "I was supposed to give a tour to a couple that arrived half an hour late," Ruth explained. "After the tour, the lady said, 'You have been so nice and wonderful. Can I give you a hug?' It is great when people are not only interested in the school but show signs of being real people," Ruth concluded.

Leslie Fox '01 found herself in the opposite extreme situation, while leading two French prospectives, who, for some reason, gave no response. "I talked to them but received no feedback," she said. "Only until the end of the tour did I realize that neither one of them spoke a word of English."

On occasion, members of a tour group, especially finicky parents, make rather strange requests of their guides. Fox had the pleasure of showing one woman every bathroom on the tour route, and the woman didn't even offer an explanation for her odd request.

Fox's most bizarre tour was a group of recovering patients from a rehabilitation center that came to see the town of Middlebury and included the college as one of the attractions. "They were telling us really weird stories," said Fox. "They said that McCullough was built in the wrong way and that it would fall down." As it may seem, tour guides can learn quite a bit about the school from the visitors as well.

Ever wonder where the building Twilight received its name? Wonder no more. "Twilight was named after Alexander Twilight, the first black American to graduate from the College," said Rosenfeld. "I have learned so much about the history of the school from being a tour guide." The tour guides might be expected to know everything about Middlebury, but many agree that they constantly acquire new college facts. Nevertheless, unexpected situations always arise for even the most informed tour guide.

"It was in the middle of J-term on a rainy day, and the ground was completely frozen," recalled Ruth. "The girl I was supposed to show around had just been at an interview, so she was wearing high heels. I felt very sorry for her, because she basically skated around campus with me."

Though faced with some odd situations, unusual people, walking backwards, and at times, severely cold weather, tour guides admit they all have fun. Moreover, they serve an undervalued, yet priceless mission: they bring students to Middlebury. "I was so excited about coming to Middlebury," said Kate Walker '99, "that I wanted to convince others of it."

Some tour guides have been on this "mission" of theirs for years. What drives them to continue as tour guides? Perhaps Flemming's conclusion is the answer: "The best thing is that you get to talk about a place that you love."

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Wakeman finds her freedom in unheated off-campus shack

By Dave Philipps
Staff Writer

Sally Wakeman '01 has a different perspective on life than most Middlebury College students.

An altered Nike bumper sticker on the back of her car that reads, "Just Do," announces her philosophy of simple living. In Wakeman's case, the words are not just symbolic. This spring she is living in a one-room shack outside of Middlebury.

Wakeman caught the attention of many in the community a few weeks ago when she put up signs explaining that she was living outside and needed blankets.

I don't want people to think I'm trying to live like Thoreau... It [my life philosophy] is more like Janis Joplin.

—Sally Wakeman '01

"I got lots of sympathy but no blankets," said Wakeman. "But it was reassuring that people were so concerned."

Living outdoors is not new for Wakeman. She spent most of the fall living with her boyfriend and Vodka, her cat, in a tent near East Middlebury. When the winter came the three moved into an apartment in town, but the expense of renting quickly absorbed the refund Wakeman got from the college for off-campus housing.

Near the time when Wakeman had to move out of her apartment she found the shack she now lives in.

"I called the guy who owned the shack and told him I wanted to move in," Wakeman explained. "He was really excited about it. He said yes. No questions asked."

The shack Wakeman and her boyfriend moved into is a neat wooden square, about ten feet long on each side, with a metal roof and screen windows. It is nestled in a grove of maples about three miles southwest of Middlebury, in Cornwall. Two cots occupy one corner of the small room, and a rickety wood stove sits in the middle. On the other side of the room a few stacks of boxes and a camping stove make up the kitchen and pantry.

Living in a shack is not easy, especially in Vermont's harsh weather. Wakeman had to adjust to fit her new lifestyle.

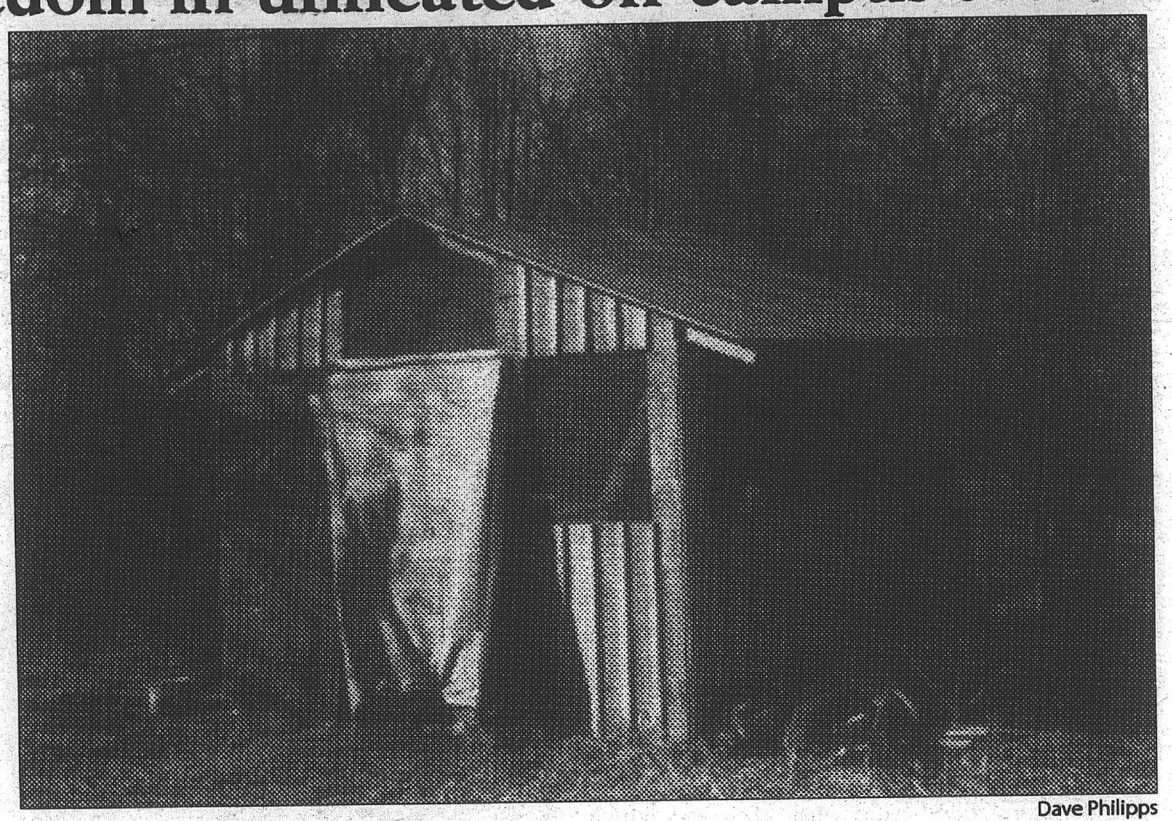
"It was hard to get used to canned soup for dinner," she said. "And I had to start doing homework during the day because it's too cold at night," Wakeman admitted.

Although the shack is small and has no amenities, it shows the charm of life simply lived.

"The best thing about living here is having the birds wake me up each morning," Wakeman said. Vodka the cat seemed to like the abundance of birds and other little creatures as well.

"I don't want people to think I'm trying to live like Thoreau," Wakeman said. She admitted that while she likes living in nature, the broader point of living in a shack deals with freedom.

"It's more like Janis Joplin," she said, alluding to Joplin's famous line, "Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose."



Dave Philipps

Above is a photograph of Wakeman's rustic shack. She currently resides here with her boyfriend and Vodka the cat.

"It's a good feeling to know you have nothing to lose," said Wakeman.

"I have to move every few months to keep things simple," Wakeman said.

Many people Wakeman has talked to about living in a shack do not see the positive sides of her living arrangement. "People ask me what is wrong," she said. "No one has asked me when I'm moving out so they can move in," joked Wakeman.

Wakeman's lifestyle may not be for everyone. Indeed, most people would view it as a type of punishment, but Wakeman insists that there are many benefits to her chosen lifestyle.

"People think about the cold and the inconveniences," she said, "and not about how much easier living like this can be."

Martini returns to school after more than 30 years

(continued from page 16)

the language." Zupan specifically remembered Martini's enthusiasm for dialogues and skits in class.

The methodologies of the Italian department, specifically the inclusion of music, games, movies, poetry and food gave Martini a sense of Italian culture.

The highlight of the semester for Martini was a lecture given by Trinity College History Professor John Alcorn on the 20th century Italian migration.

"This was a very important lecture to me," said Martini referring to his Italian roots. "It was a real eye-opener."

Taking Italian classes helped Martini get through two major surgeries on his ulna nerve. "The classes served as motivation. I think I would have gone crazy sitting around and staring at the wall and doing nothing," said Martini.

Martini had to go to Boston for surgery in the middle of the semester but came back and did well on the mid-term. "They gave me the support I needed to do well even from a distance," he said.

Martini attributes his success to hard work and the professors of the Italian department. "No one has more enthusiasm than Professor Zupan. She is the best professor I have ever had," said Martini.

For winter term Martini took a class with visiting Italian instructor Adrienne Ward. "Her father had taken up French in his fifties, so she could really identify with my struggle to learn the language," said Martini. "She was extremely supportive of me." Martini spent up to 15 hours outside of class working on the language, and he feels that his hard work has really paid off.

There is a large population of Italians in the town of Plymouth, Massachusetts, where Martini currently resides. Martini has spent time speaking with them in his newly-learned Italian.

"They can't believe that I have been taking Italian for such a short period of time," said Martini. "The fact that I can speak so well is a tribute to the Middlebury language programs."

Martini wanted to show his gratitude to the Italian department and to give back something to the school in return for his learning experience. He is planning to plant a tree from Italy on the Middlebury campus in a location where all Italian professors and students can view it. At the moment he is considering an evergreen oak tree or a sweet chestnut tree, both of which are native to the Dolomite Alps.

Martini is planning to plant a tree from Italy on the Middlebury campus in a location where all Italian professors and students can view it.

This summer Martini plans to put his Italian skills into practice. He and his daughter are traveling to Florence and Bologna, Italy. Martini spent his sophomore year of undergraduate college traveling around Europe. He toured 12 days in Italy and fell in love with it.

"The people are so friendly there, and I can't wait to go back," Martini said. After Italy, Martini hopes to return to work at Middlebury if his next three surgeries are successful.

Currently Martini is in New York while he continues to recover from surgery. Middlebury looks forward to greeting him back to campus soon and conversing with him at the Italian language table.

"Some people thought I was crazy to go back to school after all those years," said Martini, "but I am a very eclectic person and think of myself as a lifetime learner. Italian has been and will be a lifelong experience for me."

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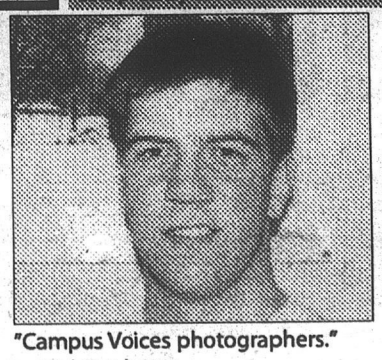
CAMPUS VOICES

What about Middlebury irks you the most?

Compiled by Laura Ford Photos by Laura Ford

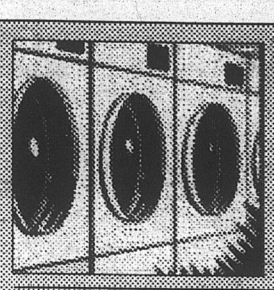
"I hate flat forks at Proctor."
—B.J. Otten '01



"Campus Voices photographers."
—Nick Reeb '01

"Gale force winds and roof avalanches."
—Julie Russell '01

"Not enough wild women."
—Timothy Ireland '99



Dryer #9 ate my bra

By Mary Tucker
Features Editor

There's nothing I like better than doing a good load of laundry. And there's absolutely no place I have a more intimate knowledge of than the basement of Forest Hall.

I just don't understand these people who subscribe to the laundry service. Not only are they subjecting their underwear to the hands of strangers, but they're passing up what, to me, is often the highlight of any given day. But hey, that means an extra dryer for me.

There is nothing quite so annoying as watching laundry pile up, watching your once spanking-clean clothes fester and melt into a bag of other dirty clothes. There's always that small amount of time between when you've just done your laundry and when you take off your clothes for the day, that the laundry bag lies empty; a wilted and defeated creature, a paper tiger of sorts. Never mind if my homework is done, if my laundry is, then I've been productive.

Maybe this obsession with laundry started because my mom always did all the laundry for our family under the pretense, I think, that we'd do plenty of it in our own time. So laundry was stigmatized from the beginning of my cognitive years as "grown-up." Consequently, I started doing laundry when I came to college, another grown-up threshold.

The basement of Forest is dank and musty, with orange-yellowish tiles covering the walls. It's uglier than a classroom built in the 1980s, with its large functional metal tables, its rusting sink, pipes that spurt out of the ceiling every which way and dryers that belch hot air from their heads. But like a child discovering a cob-webbed attic or the crawl space beneath her house, I discovered Forest laundry room.

I like curling into the high windows like a cat, almost at ground level, and just watching what goes on. On busy days, laundry requires strategy. You can just about always find an empty washing machine, but people will commit felony murder for a dryer. There are 12 washing machines on each side but only seven dryers, so trouble is often brewing. Friday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, people swarm like sharks, ready to taste blood. You have to time your load perfectly with someone's drier so that just as their dryer sounds its high-pitched alarm, your clothes are done spinning and are ready for that quick transfer. It takes talent. What can I say?

I also like to be part of the crowd that does their laundry at the peak social hours of late Friday and Saturday nights. It feels liberating to hold your head up high and mentally say, "I'm aware I have no social life. I'm fine with the fact that I do laundry on Friday nights."

I like to laugh at people who come in with bulging and weighted-down pockets full of quarters, half of them accidentally Canadian, that then have to be force-fed to the machines. I know how to use the machine that takes your MiddCard; I'm part of the elite know-hows. We have our own handshake.

You can tell so much about people from how they do their laundry. There are some that painstakingly separate out every article into appropriate color-coded machines, and then into appropriately heated dryers. There are others who turn their laundry bag upside down above a washing machine, and then fill their dryer well beyond its capacity and blast all their clothes on high. Some people meticulously fold all their clothes and match their socks. Other people grab their finished laundry with two arms and leave a trail of socks behind them. Blame the dryers, huh?

I have my own highly specialized system of dividing my laundry into the correct washing cycles and then into the complementary dryers. I'll sell you my laundry secrets for $10.

You really just have to get into the spirit of the whole ordeal. Break out the overalls, the old tee-shirt and put a bandanna in your hair.

I admire people who can do their work in the laundry room, but for me, it's impossible. If I'm not people-watching, I'm being hypnotized by the twirl and display of the dryers. I get jealous if people have prettier underwear or sheets than I do, and I try and guess which person out of seven I'd most like to meet based on their whirling laundry. It's a constant display of modern art. No picture is ever the same in the transparent circle of a revolving dryer. A new revelation while staring into its face seems always imminent.

I love the masses of used dryer sheets on the brown tiled floor. They remind me of the white foam that sticks to the sand after a wave has retreated. I love the random signs tacked to the wall that say, "Have you seen my favorite yellow sweat pants?" while other abandoned clothes weep, crumpled in the corners. I love the one coveted cream campus phone tacked to the far wall, and the condescending giant of a soda machine that often grants you two sodas if he knows you as well as he knows me.

I met a girl named Tami here during J-term who was an exchange student from California. The dryers must have gotten wind that she was a foreigner, like dogs can sniff out fear, because one of them ripped holes in all of her clothes with a metal piece of its anatomy. Luckily, she turned tragedy into the next hit country song entitling it: "Dryer Number Nine Ate My Bra." I tell you, the laundry room is the place all genius is born.

Ski-a-thon benefits Special Olympics

(continued from page 16)

The ten participants skied only one slope, Gondolier, for the entire day. Gondolier measures 2,160 feet from top to bottom, and each skier tackled it approximately 47 times in the 13-hour period. David Paul skied the most runs with a high of 57.

"The skiers just kept going up the gondola and straight down, and up and down, and up and down all day," said Twyon. "It was just the same run, over and over and over again."

The skiers' strategy was to turn as little as possible without endangering themselves or other skiers on the slope.

Although Stowe Mountain did not officially support this year's charity event, Middlebury College students hope to receive Stowe's official support in the future. Official recognition by the Mountain would mean more media support and more runs completed if the skiers did not have to wait in lift lines.

"At one point in the middle of the day I thought for sure that we were not going to make the 1,000,000 vertical feet," said David Paul. "Not because of the skiers but because the lift was running slow, because of high winds, and [then] the lift started later than we expected."

Boarini and Bob Bryan agreed that by the end of the day everyone was extremely exhausted; the skiers only rested for a short period of 30 minutes during the entire day in order to re-hydrate themselves.

"By the end of the day, the carbohydrates from the pasta dinner on the night before cooked by Scott and David was what made the difference," said Bryan.

"I will usually ski 12 runs in one day," said Boarini, who skied 47 runs, "so it was the other skiers on the gondola... who kept me going on the final runs."

Twyon said that once the 1,000,000 vertical feet goal was reached the whole team took a victory lap together in celebration of its accomplishment.

The Finance Committee wants to thank Elizabeth Christensen from the Middlebury College American Disabilities Act (ADA) Office for their donation and support in planning this charity event.

Courtesy Photo
Ten Middlebury students and alumni skied over 1,000,000 miles for charity.

Festival shares diverse cultures with children

(continued from page 16)

tion Day received the support of Vermont politicians. Senator Tom Bahre and Representatives Betty Nuovo and Bill Wissell attended the day's events.

"The students looked like they were very interested and having fun... The singing and the dancing was great," said Nuovo, who felt that the children's interaction with Middlebury students from foreign countries was a particularly valuable educational experience.

"It [InternationalFest!] was a fantastic opportunity for local Vermont school children to experience the world right in their own hometown," said Assistant Dean of Students Kathy Foley-Giorgio, who was also in attendance.

Another college administrator, Dean of Languages and International Studies Michael Katz, agreed that the event was triumphant. He anticipates doing more outreach projects with the Middlebury community, outside of Vermont Higher Education Day, through the Geonomics Institute.

"This is exactly the thing we think the college should be doing," said Katz. "One of the latest priorities for the [Geonomics] co-curricular program is to move outside the college and share our resources with Addison County and its schools."

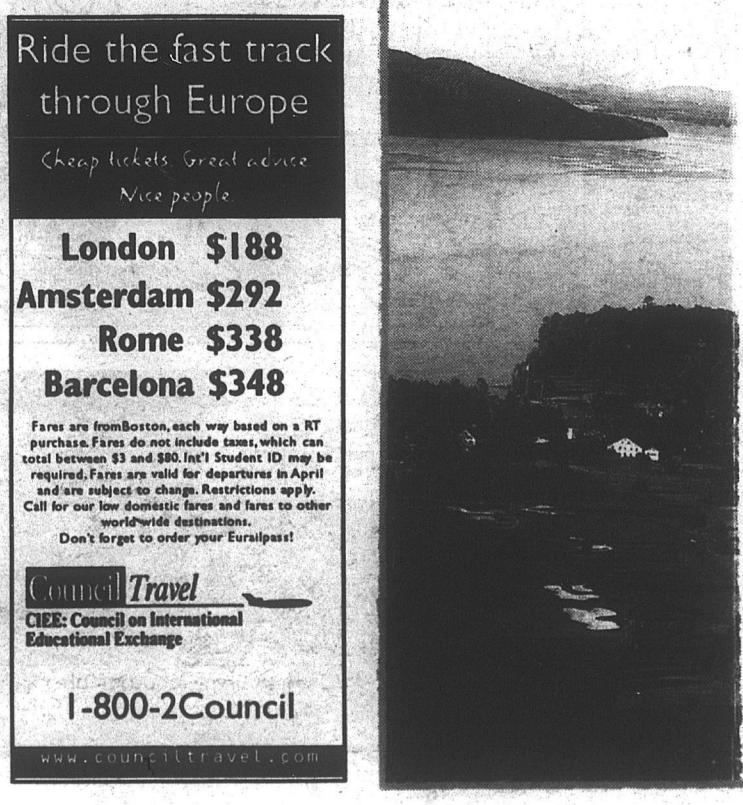
At the InternationalFest! closing ceremony, the college gave two main gifts from the day's cultural presentations to the Mary Hogan School. These included a six-foot map illustrating Europe's border changes from 1914 to 1998, designed by geography major Adam Sobek '99, as well as a disk copy of the PowerPoint presentation on Kenya made by Okomboli Ong'ong'a '00.

Afterwards the children ate their bag lunches and complimentary international cookies as Middlebury students circulated the room and chatted with them.

McKenzie, whose husband is Robert Martin, Middlebury Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science, viewed the event, especially the more interactive presentations, as a success.

"The kids really loved it. I think they learned a lot," McKenzie said about her fifth and sixth grade combination class. "Some kids have never traveled outside of Vermont, then with this event, they realize that within a mile from our school there are these people from all over the world."

The Public Affairs Office looks forward to participating in Ver-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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Middlebury Mountain Club Weekly Update:

-Thursday 11th: Broomball, Kenyon Arena at 7:30 pm.

-Saturday 13th: Day Hike with Amy Olsen

-Sunday 14th: Mountain Monster relay race at the Snowbowl, 2pm.

For any questions or ideas, call Eva Moller at x6755.

OVERHEARDS

"Overheards are nothing more than not so subtle references to penises."
-The Grille

"If you touch yourself...that's labor"
-Economics Professor

"You can't do that! It's called masturbation! Look it up!"
-Philosophical discussion of diction

"I hope it stays on at least through Panama. I'd hate for it to get some weird infection."
-Senior Abroad

"Who needs an organ? We can do it with thrusts!"
-Middlebury Choir Practice

"I just don't feel good about fore play."
"What are you talking about? Foreplay is essential!"
-Another philosophical discussion of diction

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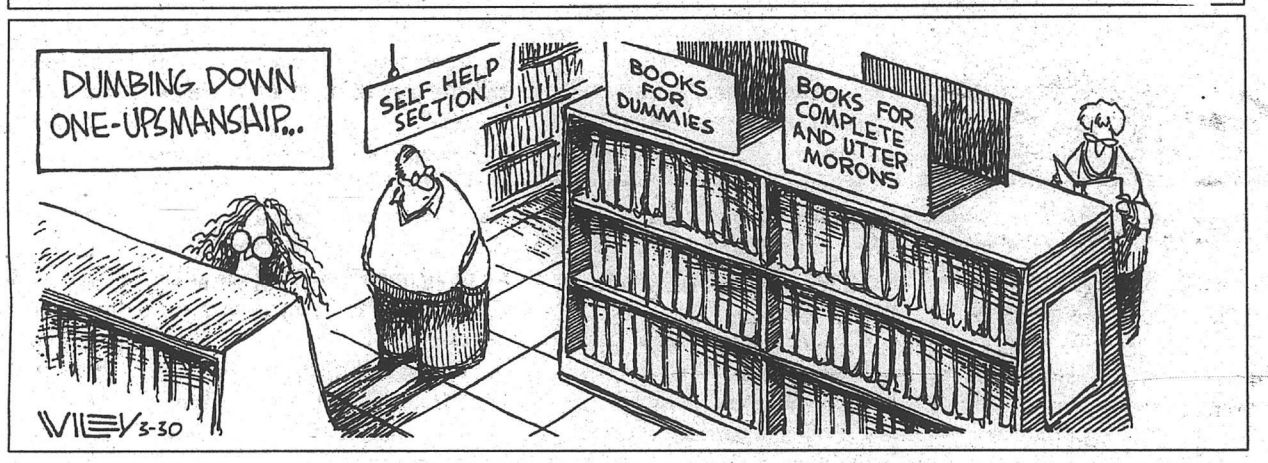
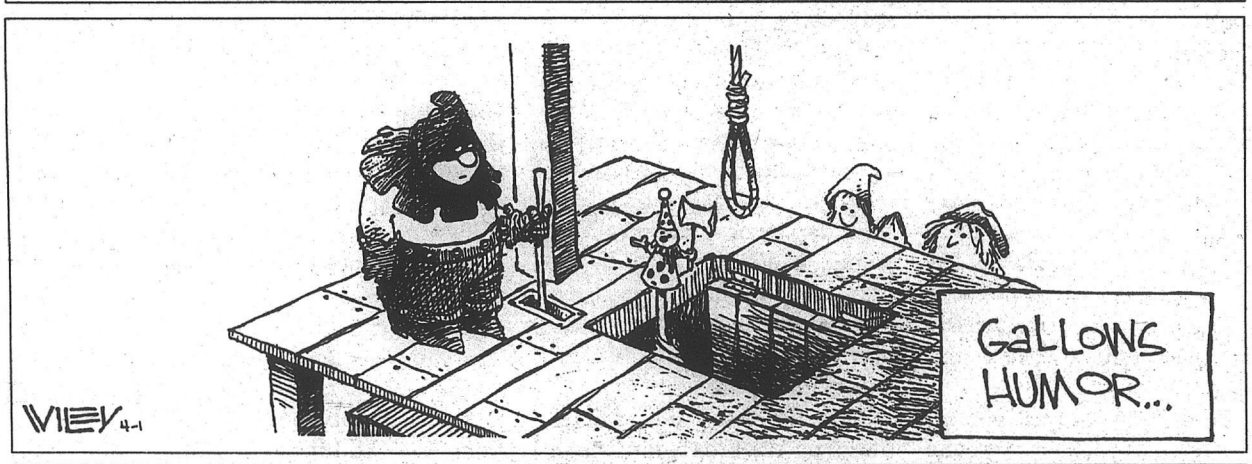
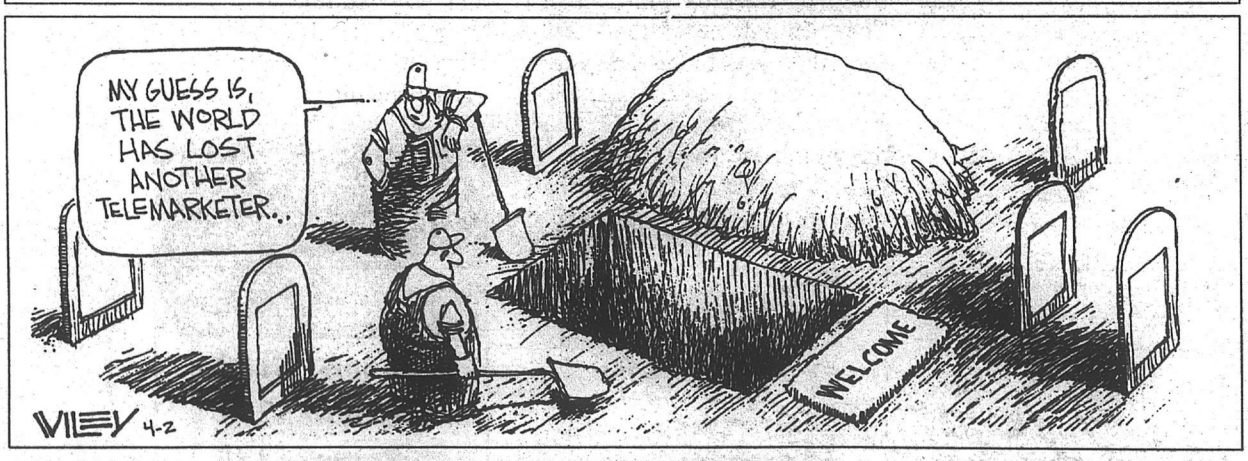
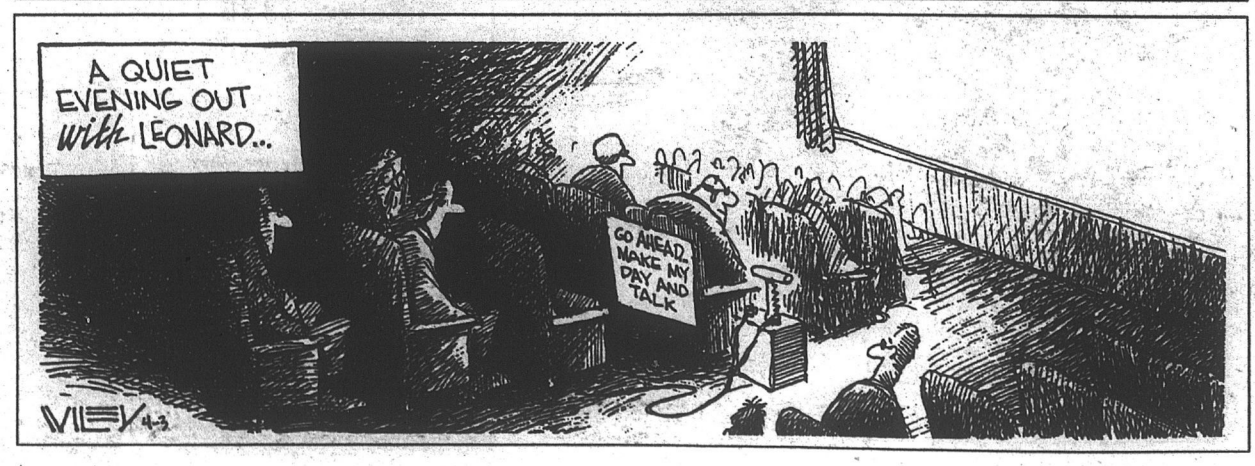
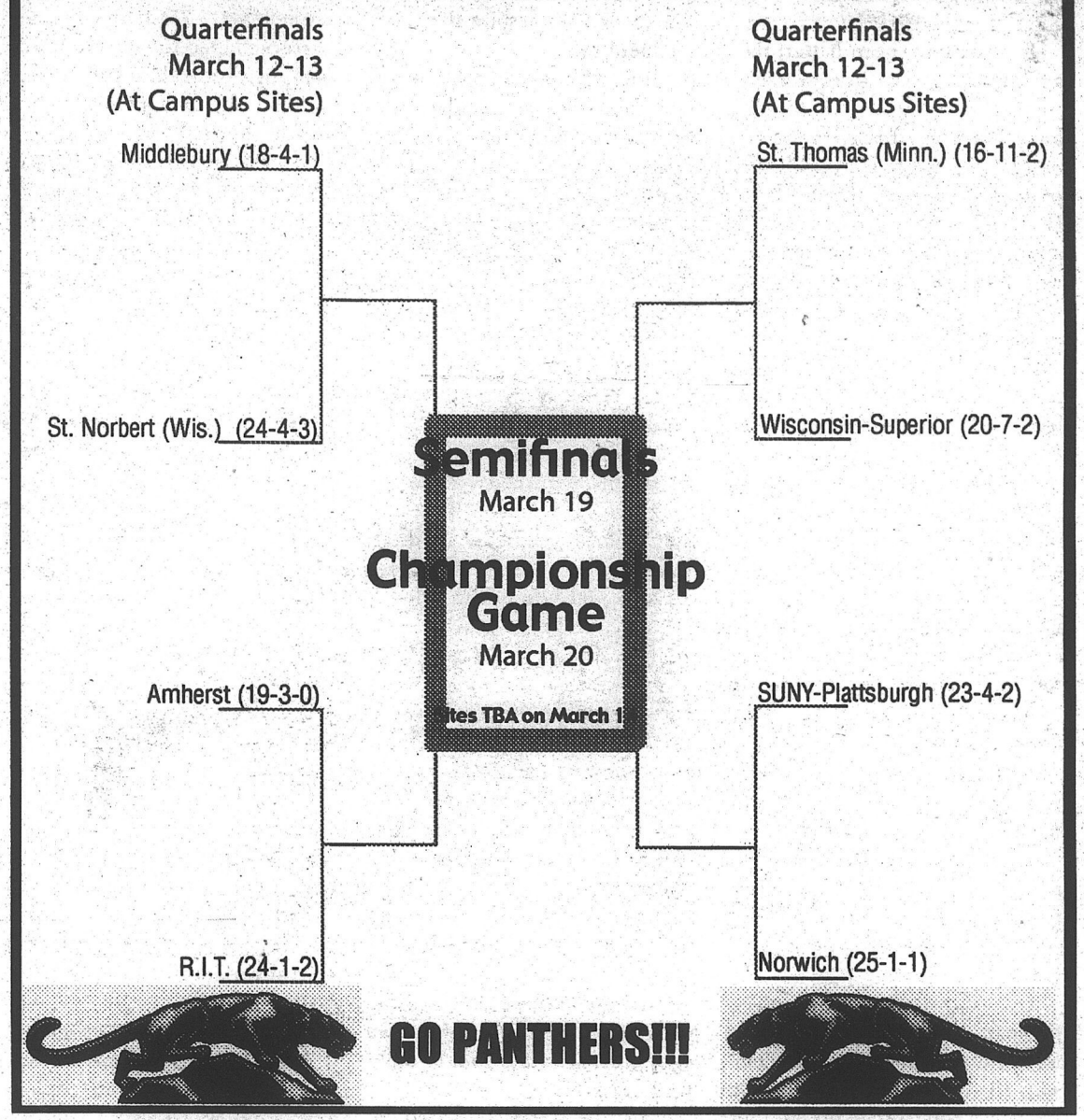








NCAA Division III men's hockey championship



Despite loss, women happy with season

(continued from page 23)

vantage was not enough to count the Panthers out, and they answered every Colonial scoring run and refused to give any ground to the number two seed in the ECAC play-offs.

The lead switched sides the entire second half until Western Connecticut was able to score a basket with 10 seconds remaining, which gave them the lead for good. The Panthers tried to answer, but the Colonial press forced Middlebury into turning the ball over with four seconds left.

Regardless of the sadness after this loss, this season still brought much to smile about for the Middlebury women's basketball team. This year welcomed tri-captain Chrissy Peterson as the seventh female player at Middlebury College to score 1,000 points in a career, and it marked the inaugural season for Coach Noreen Pecsok.

"[Coach Pecsok] has done a great job establishing herself," said Peterson. "For us being in a transition year, she was amazing. You would never know that she wasn't our coach for the past four years."

It is often difficult for a coach to gain the respect of her players and have a successful year all in her first season, but Pecsok did just that and more.

"Coach Pecsok was amazing. She always said that we should measure success by how we came out on the season, and we came out as better players and better people," McCarthy said.

Pecsok was able to guide the Panthers to 15 wins this season, and she was instrumental in leading the Panthers on a late season charge to qualify for the ECAC playoffs.

Middlebury is losing three seniors, Peterson, McCarthy and Joanna Wolkowski '99, who were the tri-captains this year with Peterson and McCarthy both being named to the All-NESCAC First-Team.

These seniors provided the team with the necessary leadership that helped them into the post-season. They also helped the other Panthers to look past the sadness of the season-ending loss and look at all that this year's team accomplished.

Peterson said, "It would have been nice to play some more games, but everyone worked so hard that I can't be disappointed with the outcome of the season."

Even with the loss of these influential players, Middlebury has high hopes for next season, and with the starting backcourt of Dawn Trowbridge '00 and Heather Langlois '00 returning, the Panthers have reason to be hopeful. They also return the inside presence of Kristy Laramee '01, who was among the nation's leaders in blocked shots this season.

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BOX SCORES

The Week of March 1-8, 1999

Women's Basketball

COLONIALS 53, PANTHERS 52

March 3, 1999

Middlebury

	Min.	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb. O-T	A	F	Pts.
Peterson	33	3-10	1-2	1-3	0	2	7
Wolkowski	29	0-4	0-0	0-8	1	2	0
McCarthy	35	7-12	5-6	1-1	1	3	20
Langlois	39	3-11	1-3	1-6	7	4	9
Trowbridge	31	2-10	1-2	0-3	1	1	5
McCosker	11	0-1	3-4	2-3	2	2	3
Laramee	13	1-2	3-5	0-3	0	2	5
Siciak	9	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Totals.....	200	17-52	14-22	9-37	12	16	52

FG% .327, FT% .636, 3-pt. goals: 4-15, .267 (Siciak 1-1, Langlois 2-7, McCarthy 1-4, Wolkowski 0-1, Trowbridge 0-2). Team rebounds: 10. Blocks: 3 (Laramee 3). Turnovers: 26 (Langlois 8, Peterson 5, McCarthy 4, Laramee 3, Siciak 3, Trowbridge 2, Wolkowski). Steals: 17 (Trowbridge 6, Langlois 5, McCarthy 3, Peterson 2, Wolkowski).

Western Connecticut

	Min.	FG M-A	FT M-A	Reb. O-T	A	F	Pts.
Harris	28	1-6	1-6	3-8	0	2	3
Dolock	27	4-9	2-4	4-5	2	2	10
Rembert	35	5-14	2-4	4-10	3	4	12
Zapor	40	10-18	1-3	3-8	1	3	21
Camella	23	1-6	0-0	0-3	0	1	3
Arroyo	9	0-0	0-0	0-2	3	0	0
Kurtyka	17	0-5	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Lane	15	0-7	2-2	3-9	1	2	2
Cruz	6	1-1	0-0	2-2	1	0	2
Totals.....	200	22-66	8-19	23-55	12	14	53

FG% .333, FT% .421, 3-pt. goals: 1-6, .167 (Camella 1-4, Kurtyka 0-2). Team rebounds: 8. Blocks: 7 (Rembert 3, Zapor, Harris, Dolock, Kurtyka). Turnovers: 27 (Lane 6, Zapor 5, Camella 5, Dolock 4, Rembert 2, Harris 2, Arroyo 2, Cruz). Steals: 13 (Zapor 5, Rembert 3, Dolock 3, Camella, Harris).

Middlebury (15-10)	25	27	- 52
W. Conn. (21-7)	24	29	- 53

A - 200. Officials - Patty Fernandez, Terry McKinney

Women's Hockey

PIONEERS 4, POLAR BEARS 0

March 6, 1999 - Semifinals, ECAC Playoffs

Sacred Heart (15-3-3)	**1**	**2**	**1**	**- 4**
Bowdoin (16-8-1)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**- 0**

First Period—1, Sacred Heart, Wiggins (Abrahams) 11:27.

Second Period— 2, Sacred Heart, Bergin (unassisted) 4:56. 3, Sacred Heart, Abrahams (Wiggins) 15:03.

Third Period—4, Sacred Heart, Raab (Appleton) 4:05.

Shots on goal— Sacred Heart 9-7-2–18. Bowdoin 7-4-7–18.

Power plays— Sacred Heart 0-4; Bowdoin 0-6.

Goalies— Sacred Heart, Derleth 7-4-7 (18 shots-18 saves). Bowdoin, Bernard 8-5-1 (18-14).

A-100.

PANTHERS 4, ENGINEERS 0

March 6, 1999 Semifinals, ECAC Playoffs

Rensselear (16-8-2)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**- 0**
Middlebury (22-2-1)	**1**	**2**	**1**	**- 4**

First Period—1, Middlebury, Labbe (Ryan, O'Neil) 17:23.

Second Period—2, Middlebury, Nina Keives (Nico Keives, Richmond) 2:33. 3, Middlebury, Labbe (unassisted) 3:28.

Third Period—4, Middlebury, Ryan (Labbe) 7:22.

Shots on goal— Rensselear 1-3-3–7. Middlebury 18-13-7–38.

Power plays— Rensselear 0-4; Middlebury 0-5.

Goalies— Rensselear, DeNuccio 17-11-6 (38 shots-34 saves). Middlebury, Hutchinson 1-3-3 (7-7).

A-325.

PANTHERS 4, PIONEERS 0

March 7, 1999 ECAC Championship

Sacred Heart (15-4-3)	**2**	**0**	**0**	**- 2**
Middlebury (23-2-1)	**2**	**2**	**1**	**- 5**

First Period—1, Sacred Heart, Wiggins (Hanna, Abrahams) 5:06. 2, Middlebury, Ryan (Labbe) 14:33. 3, Middlebury, Elkins (Hase, McDougall) 15:22. 4, Sacred Heart, Hendra (Hanna) 18:31.

Second Period—5, Middlebury, O'Neil (McDougall, Ryan) 6:45. 6, Middlebury, Pullins (Ryan, Elkins) 8:17 (pp).

Third Period—7, Middlebury, Labbe (O'Neil, Ryan) 5:21.

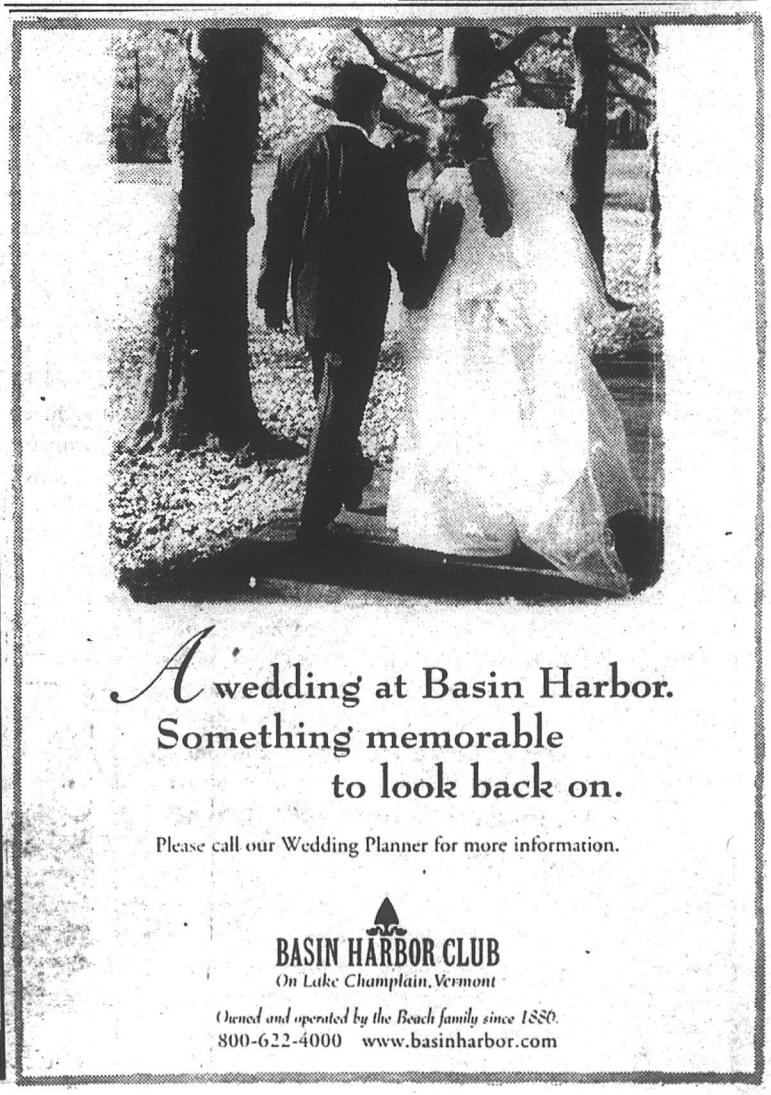
Shots on goal— Sacred Heart 6-6-5–17. Middlebury 19-12-10–41.

Power plays— Sacred Heart 0-3; Middlebury 1-4.

Goalies— Sacred Heart, Derleth 17-10-9 (41 shots-36 saves). Middlebury, Hackmann 4-6-5 (15).

A-610.

The Campus **would like to thank Brad Nadeau and everyone in the Sports Information Department for making this page and the rest of the sports section possible.**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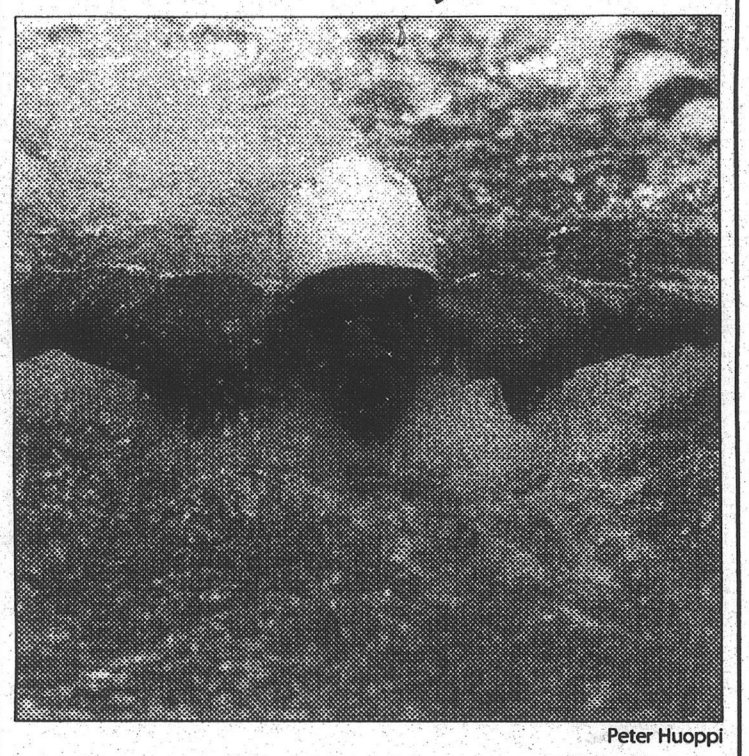
Athlete of the Week:
Jean-Paul Gowdy '99



Peter Huoppi

Gowdy won two individual titles and three relays at New Englands.

Gowdy wins five titles in New England finale

By Otie Hart
Sports Editor

Jean-Paul Gowdy '99 has unarguably been the greatest swimmer at Middlebury over the past four years. He has won 10 New England Championships and capped off an amazing New England career last week when he won the 100 and 400 Individual Medleys and was part of three first-place relays. Not coincidentally, "J.P." was also named Swimmer of the Meet and received the Robert Muir award, given to the senior who scores the most cumulative points at New England.

Born and raised in Prince Edward Island, Canada, Gowdy started swimming when he was four years old and took swimming lessons when he turned eight. After his first couple of lessons, a local swim coach noticed his natural ability and asked him to join the school swim team.

"When I was 14, I started to really take swimming seriously," Gowdy said. "I was never really a stand-out." Despite his humble depiction, Gowdy did qualify for the Canadian junior national meet and was recruited by much larger schools than Middlebury.

If it was not for Gowdy's parents, Middlebury's most-acclaimed swimmer may have gone somewhere else. "My mom and dad really wanted me to come to Middlebury because of its academic reputation," Gowdy said. The combination of his exceptional swimming skills and fine academic record resulted in his acceptance at Middlebury in 1995, where his ability sky rocketed.

Gowdy qualified for nationals his freshman year at Middlebury and was subsequently named an All-American. He followed up his incredible first-year with an even better sophomore season, when he won the national championship in the 400 IM.

"J.P. is the most incredible swimmer I have ever seen," Head Swimming Coach Peter Solomon said. "He can shift into a fifth gear few other swimmers possess."

During his junior year at Middlebury, Gowdy won Swimmer of the Meet at the New England championships and went to the national meet again. He also helped Middlebury win three relays for the first time ever. Despite the combo of Gowdy's individual effort and the team's success, the Panthers still finished third.

Gowdy, who improved individually every year at Middlebury, saved his greatest accomplishment for this year, his last at Midd. Along with a crop of amazing first-years, Gowdy led the Panthers to a victory over Amherst for the first time in school history and a second-place at the New England championships.

Outside of Middlebury, Gowdy has honed his skills all over the country. During the summer of 1997, Gowdy qualified for the Canada Games, which is a national event that acts as a mini-Summer Olympics. Gowdy performed amazingly well considering his age and placed in the top eight in the 100, 200 and 400 IM.

During the summer of 1998, Gowdy swam for the Ocean State Squids, a Rhode Island swim club that competes in the United States Swimming Association. While swimming for the Squids, Gowdy swam in the senior national meet in Fresno, California, a competition that featured the best swimmers in the country.

While in Providence, Rhode Island, Gowdy qualified for the Canadian Olympic Trials, an event that will take place in April, 2000. He will prepare for the trials by training all next year in Calgary at a national training center run by the Olympic Committee that will subsidize his training.

"Right now, I'm probably about 10th in the 200 IM," Gowdy said. "I have to drop about two to three seconds in the event to make the Olympics. They only take two swimmers in the event, so there is only an outside chance of me actually going."

Individuals shine at D-III showcase

By Scott Cacciola
Sports Editor

It could have been better; then again, it could have been worse.

A select group of 13 Middlebury athletes made their way South to Boston University this past weekend to participate in the Division III ECAC Championships. While both the men's and women's teams managed only mediocre overall results (the men finished 28th out of 39 teams, while the women were 18th in a 34 team field), four Middlebury athletes returned home with All-ECAC honors.

The women's 800 meters was certainly the most successful event of the weekend for the Panthers, as a pair of Middlebury athletes placed in the top four. Kate Irvin '01 finished third (2:16.14), while Annah Heitkamp '00 finished in fourth position in a time of 2:16.40. Both earned All-ECAC distinction.

"I felt really good," Irvin said, who recorded a season-best time despite battling a lingering cold. "I felt tapered and well-rested. It was a really fast race, and the competition was really good. It was a good preview of what will happen at nationals."

Irvin and Heitkamp are both off to Northern Ohio University next weekend to compete at the Division III National Championships. Irvin will concentrate on the 1500 meters while Heitkamp will compete in the 800.

"I'm really looking forward to [Nationals]," Heitkamp said. "I'm extremely excited and the competition will be great, but I want to focus on running my own race."

On the men's side, senior Co-captain Adam Dreiblatt put forward another solid performance in the Weight Throw, finishing fifth with a toss of 53'07.5, adding All-ECAC honors to his growing list of accomplishments. He is a provisional qualifier for Nationals, but as of press time, he was awaiting confirmation of his invitation from the NCAA competition.

In the Pole Vault, Andy Dixon '00 earned All-ECAC honors by clearing 14'03.25. He finished fourth overall, despite the tough competition.

Other Middlebury athletes also recorded strong individual performances. High Jumper Natasha Kelly '02 recorded a ninth place finish, leaping 4'11.0.

Fellow first-year Susan Ludwick capped an outstanding rookie indoor season, finishing 11th in the 1500 meters in a time of 4:51.76.

Finally, Maureen Nowlan '99 placed 12th overall in the Weight Throw (41'09.25).

Entering the meet with high expectations, it turned out to be a tough day for the Middlebury men's hurdlers. In the 55 meter high hurdles, both Ethan Barron '01 and Andy Boyer '02 failed to make the finals. After running a respectable 7.95 in the Prelims, Barron clipped the second hurdle in his Semi-final heat and finished in 8.24, out of contention for a spot in the final heat.

Boyer clipped a hurdle in his Preliminary heat and fell—an act that is commonly referred to in track circles as "eating track."

"I did the same thing when I was a first-year," Barron commiserated afterwards. "So, I guess it's a Middlebury tradition at ECACs."

While Irvin, Heitkamp and Dreiblatt continue to ready themselves for NCAAs, the rest of the indoor squad has already converted to "outdoor" status. The team will travel to California over break to compete in a pair of meets.

ECAC four-peat solidifies Panthers' place in history

(continued from page 24)

back penalties. Great defense, goaltending, and all-around team play kept Sacred Heart off of the scoreboard.

Back to full strength, it was Middlebury took control. They scored first in the second period. Senior Janice O'Neil scored the go-ahead goal. She put the puck away from right in front of the goal to make the score 3-2.

Catherine Pullins '00 added another score later in the second period. Off of the rebound on a shot by Ryan, Pullins put the score in the left side of the net to put Middlebury up 4-2.

Sacred Heart had little answer to the barrage of goals by the Panthers. They were held scoreless during the last two periods behind Senior goalie Kristin Hackmann. Hackmann made her last game as a Middlebury Panther memorable with 17 saves in goal.

"We had to work hard against Sacred Heart," Hackmann said. "The win was that much sweeter."

Middlebury added an insurance goal in the third period with a score by Labbe in the top corner of the net, making the final championship score 5-2.

"This game was a great way to end the season and for the seniors to finish their careers," Coach Mandigo said after the game.

Seniors on the team echoed Coach Mandigo. "It is remarkable and unreal," an exuberant Hackmann said. "This is what I will remember more than anything else."

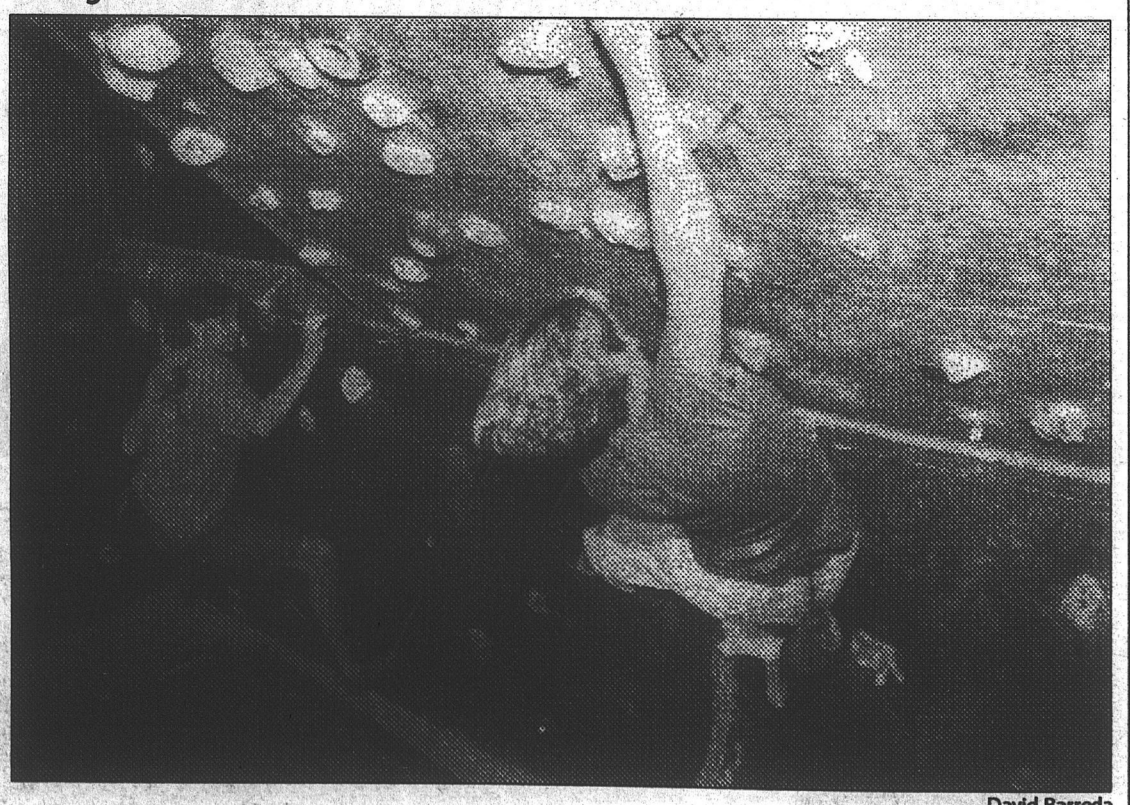
"We have worked so hard all season," Chepren said. "I can't think of any better way to go. This is a classy, confident, non-cocky team that I am so proud to be a part of."

The Seniors end their careers at Middlebury with an astounding 72-0 league record and four Championship banners. The 5-2 victory was not a bad way to go out at all.

Ryan amd Elkins were named to the All Tournament Team.

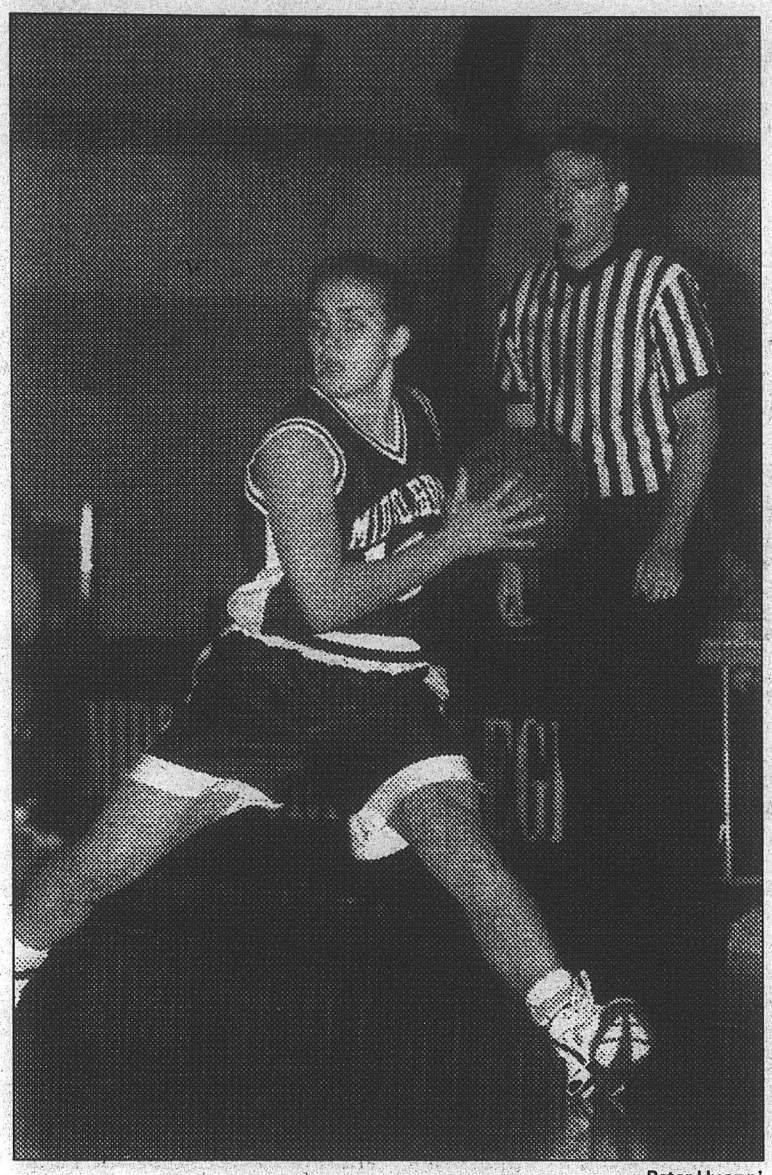
Middlebury players captured four of the six spots on the ECAC's All-League team. Labbe, who lead the league with 27 goals, and Ryan (23 goals) were chosen as forwards. Defensively, Elkins, the top defensive scorer in the league, and Pullins, who was awarded her third All-ECAC distinction, were also recognized for exceptional play on the ice.

Strength on the hills



David Barreda

Climbing to incredible heights, *students from Dartmouth, Williams, Harvard and Columbia traveled to the Fletcher Field House for the second annual "In a Blender" climbing competition, which Dartmouth won this year.*



Peter Huoppi

Heather Langlois '00 had seven assists in the loss to Western Connecticut.

Western Connecticut avoids Panther upset bid

By Nick Jocelyn
Assistant Sports Editor

No matter how hard one tries, it is always hard to justify a loss, especially when it's a season finale: In the case of the Middlebury women's basketball team, however, it is hard not to be satisfied and proud of the team's performance against Western Connecticut State University.

Playing against a higher seeded team on the road of the first round of the ECAC playoffs, the Panthers (15-10) refused to back down, and they played with the same heart and intensity that had helped them win 15 games this year. In the end, though, it was not enough and a Western Connecticut basket in the final seconds of regulation cost Middlebury a heart-breaking 53-52 loss.

The most consistent aspect of this year's team has been their enthusiasm and energy all season, and they rarely stepped onto the court without giving 100 percent for 40 minutes of every game. This was apparent in the game against the Colonials (21-7), but the Panthers still felt they could have played better.

"We played hard the entire game, but this was a game where we needed to play our best and we didn't," said Kelly McCarthy '99.

One of the reasons why the Panthers could not play their best was due to the Colonials' quick defense.

"They took advantage of us in that respect," McCarthy said in regard to the quicker Colonial team. "They had some guards who had quite a few steals."

The Colonials used this quickness to run a tough full-court press and force 26 Panther turnovers, which kept Middlebury out of their offense in the early part of the game.

"We had a little trouble scoring in the beginning and we needed some individuals to step it up and Kelly [McCarthy] did a great job of getting us back into the game," said Chrissy Peterson '99. "Kelly had a wonderful game."

McCarthy ended the game with a team-high 20 points and added 3 steals, which helped Middlebury gain a one-point advantage, 25-24, at half time.

Despite the quickness of the Colonial team, Middlebury used its own defensive intensity to force 26 turnovers and make 17 steals.

One of the factors that really hurt the Panthers was the strong rebounding of Western Connecticut.

"Their size was not much of a factor, but we were out-rebounded by double digits. Their offensive put-backs were what killed us," said McCarthy.

Middlebury was out-rebounded 55-37, and the Colonials were able to grab 23 offensive rebounds to help their cause.

Even so, the rebounding disad-

(see Despite, page 21)

Nothing But Net

By Otie Hart
March Madness Sufferer

As stupid as it sounds, March Madness is spreading and it doesn't care who you are or whether you have ever picked up a sports page.

For the basketball purist, there is nothing better than March Madness, considering the competition and level of play. When these kids say they play for the love of the game, they really mean it. Most of these guys know they won't be receiving Nike shoe endorsement deals any time soon, nor do they care. There is an immeasurable difference between playing for money and playing for pride and nothing accentuates that gap better than the NCAA basketball tournaments.

For those who don't normally care about basketball, the polar opposite of the purist, March Madness includes the Brackets, America's most popular gambling pool device. You don't have to know a thing to fill out the NCAA Tourney bracket, but once you do, you become a basketball junky, watching every game to see if your underdog team pulls off a victory and vaults you ahead in the office pool.

For the Biblically inclined, March Madness annually features your classic David defeats Goliath scenario. Who could forget Princeton running the backdoor cut against UCLA in 1997 or Bryce Drew shooting tiny Valparaiso (a Baptist college) past those big boys from Mississippi in 1998.

This year's tournament features many intriguing contests, both in the first round and hypothetically down the road. Thursday's most anticipated games look to be the UCLA-Detroit match-up and the Indiana-George Washington bout.

Both games could go either way and feature exciting players. Baron Davis of UCLA can dominate the game both defensively, where he is averaging 2.4 steals a game, and offensively, where most of his dunks end up on SportsCenter's Plays of the Week.

The Indy-GW contest features GW guard Shawnta Rogers, who is possibly the country's best player, if you divide skill by size. Rogers is 5'4", but averages 20.1 points and 6.9 assists per game. His heroics made GW the regular season champs of the Atlantic-10 and his game-winning shots could carry over to the NCAA tourney.

Friday features arguably the first-round's best contest, UNC-Charlotte vs. Rhode Island. Both teams are incredibly hot. Unfortunately, the two teams play each other in the first round and only one can advance. Players to watch are UNC-Charlotte's Diego Guevara, a Venezuelan sharp-shooter who blows a kiss to his wife after every three-pointer, and URI's Lamar Odom, arguably the best player in the country, period. His three point buzzer-beater got URI into the NCAA tourney and he could certainly carry his team on his back into the Sweet 16.

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Panthers cement dynasty with fourth straight title

Women's hockey breaks Sacred Heart, 5-2

By Sarah Jones
Staff Writer

When it was all said and done, was there ever any doubt?

The Middlebury women's hockey team survived a tough scare from Scared Heart en route to their fourth consecutive ECAC Championship this past Saturday at Kenyon Arena. With their 5-2 season-ending victory over the Pioneers, the Panthers extended their undefeated ECAC record to 72 games over the past four years. They have won every League Championship since the ECAC's inception in 1995-96.

Sacred Heart was the fifth seed coming into the ECAC tournament. They knocked off third-seeded Wesleyan 5-2 last Wednesday night to advance to the semi-finals on Saturday. Then they shocked second seed Bowdoin 4-0 to earn a spot in the Championship game.

Earning a first-round bye as the tournament's top seed, Middlebury needed only one game to advance to Sunday's championship game. The Panthers defeated sixth seed RPI, 4-0, in Saturday's semi-final game. Two goals from Michelle Labbe '01 helped to seal the win for the Panthers. First-year goalie Megan Hutchinson had seven saves in the shutout for the Panthers.

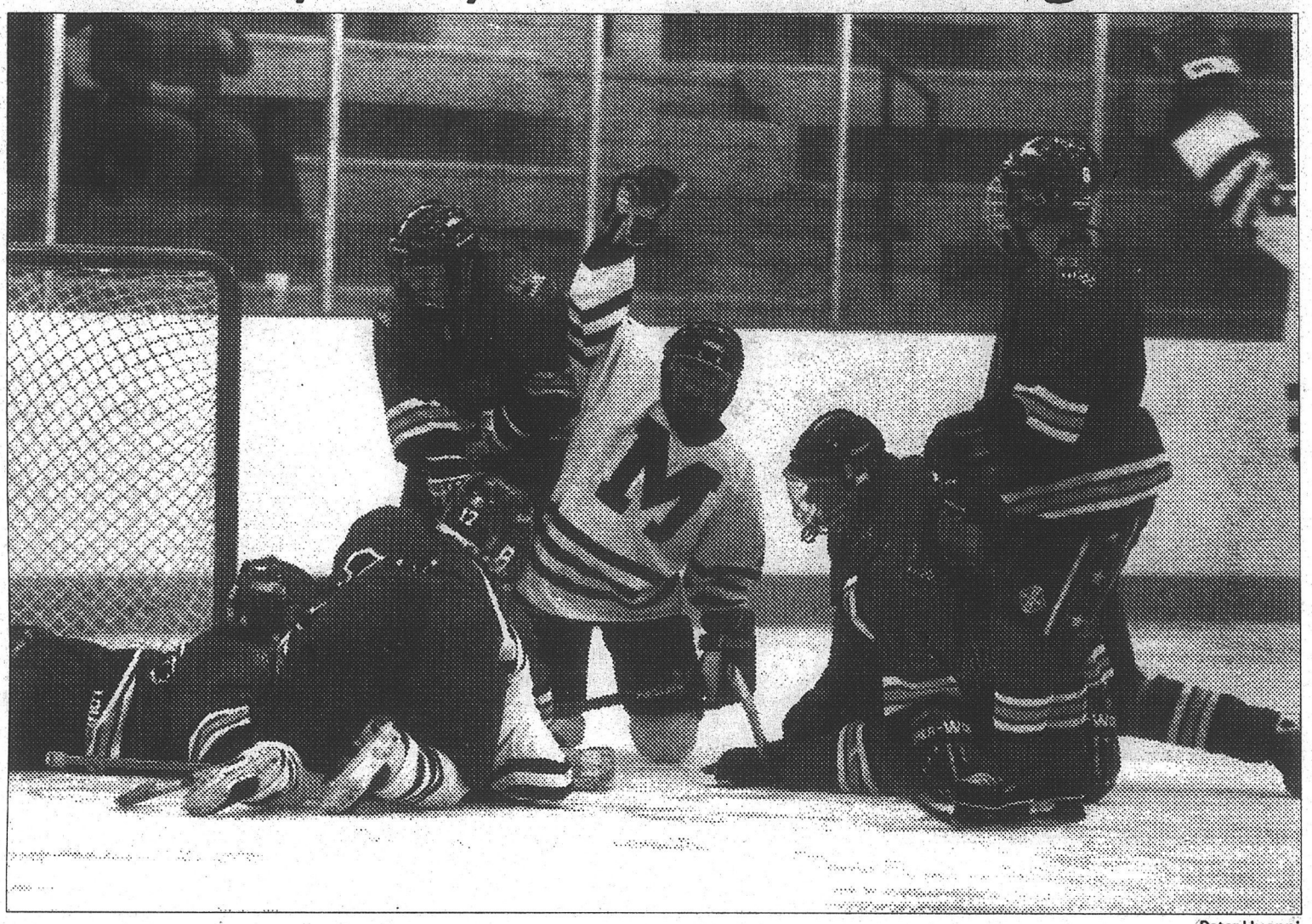
The Pioneers came out in the first period and shocked Middlebury on their home ice. Lauren Wiggins' score five minutes into the game put Sacred Heart up 1-0.

"[Sacred Heart] came out ready to play and played so well at the beginning of the game," Middlebury senior Suzanne Chepren said afterwards. "Sacred Heart improved such a long way from the beginning of the season."

Sacred Heart was high on confidence heading into Sunday's championship game, riding the success of their previous wins. The Pioneer's play also impressed Middlebury head coach Bill Mandigo. "They came in excited and prepared," he said. "They came in thinking that they could beat us and win the championship. Our team was prepared, but I think Sacred Heart was more ready to play."

"They took us by surprise," Labbe added. "When they went up by a goal we knew we had to find a way to work harder."

Labbe, who was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player, helped to bring the Panthers back into the game. Late in the first period with the Pioneers still up 1-0, Middlebury jumped on the scoreboard. Sylvia Ryan '00 made a beautiful pass to Labbe in front of the net, who then dumped the puck back to Ryan, who was set up perfectly in front of the net for the goal. It was Ryan's twenty-third goal of the season and tied the game up at 1-1.



Peter Huoppi

Michelle Labbe raises her fist in celebration after her third period goal iced the championship for the Panthers. Labbe was named the tournament MVP.

We have worked so hard all season. I can't think of a better way to go.

—Suzanne Chepren

Middlebury did not hesitate to come right back at the Pioneers after their goal. From a face-off less than a minute later, first year Catherine Elkins, who was set up in the center of the ice, took the puck off a pass and buried it in the back of the goal. Christa McDougall '00 and Kelly Hase '00 shared in the assist.

Sacred Heart, shocked by Middlebury's two quick scores, rallied to come back before the end of the period. The Pioneer's Lori Hendra tied up the score at 2-2 with 1:29 left in the first period. The teams went into the locker room with the score remaining at 2-2.

"We had to take a step back after the first period," Coach Mandigo said. "We relaxed and thought about what we knew we had to do [during intermission]."

Middlebury came back into the second period with a determined outlook. The first four minutes of the second period were crucial. Middlebury played down a man for the first four minutes after back to

(see ECAC, page 22)

Peter Huoppi

Junior Ben Barnett and the rest of the Panthers are heading to Wisconsin.

Men's hockey awarded tournament berth

By Trent Nutting
Staff Writer

The Middlebury men's hockey team breathed a collective sigh of relief on Sunday night. That's when word came from the NCAA selection committee that the Panthers had earned a coveted bid to the NCAA playoffs. They learned that they will face St. Norbert's of Wisconsin on the road this Friday, in the first round of the tournament.

Though many hockey fans have assumed that the Panthers would be playing for a fifth straight national title this year, the players and coaches have spent the past two weeks in limbo, not knowing wether they would be given a NCAA tournament bid at all. Sunday marked the final day for tournament commitee deliberation, and Coach Beaney was notified Sunday evening that his team would be traveling to the "frozen tundra" of Green Bay Wisconsin to face St. Norbert's.

Following their final weekend of league play, the Panthers took a much needed break from the ice, as Coach Beaney gave them a week off from scheduled practice. Nonetheless, various members of the squad were seemingly unable to remain idle and got in a little skating during the break. In the second week of the post-season, the players resumed their normal practice schedule, though nothing about the week was very normal. Scott Goldman '01 summed it up best when, prior to Sunday's announcement, he said, "I am trying not to think about it.... It is now out of our hands. It's a strange time right now, knowing that on Sunday our season will either be over, or it will be just getting started."

As it turned out, their season was just getting started. The Panthers will most likely leave on Thursday for Friday night's game in Green Bay, where they will face St. Norbert's, currently the top ranked team in the west. Regardless of Friday's outcome, the teams will play again on Saturday. If one team wins both games, then that team will move on. However, if they split the two game series, then there will be a ten-minute playoff immediately following Saturday's game. The winner of the weekend will then continue on to the semi-finals, which will be held on Friday, March 19th, followed by the National Championship on March 20.

Having received a playoff berth, the Panthers can now re-focus their energy and excitement, and draw upon the post-season intensity that has proven valuable in the past four tournaments. The St. Norbert's match-up will prove to be a difficult one, though the Panthers appear to be reaching their peak at an opportune moment in the season.

Sunday's announcement came as good news to the Middlebury hockey community, though to diehard Panther enthusiasts, it simply reaffirmed what they already knew: the Middlebury men's hockey team is one of the best in the country.